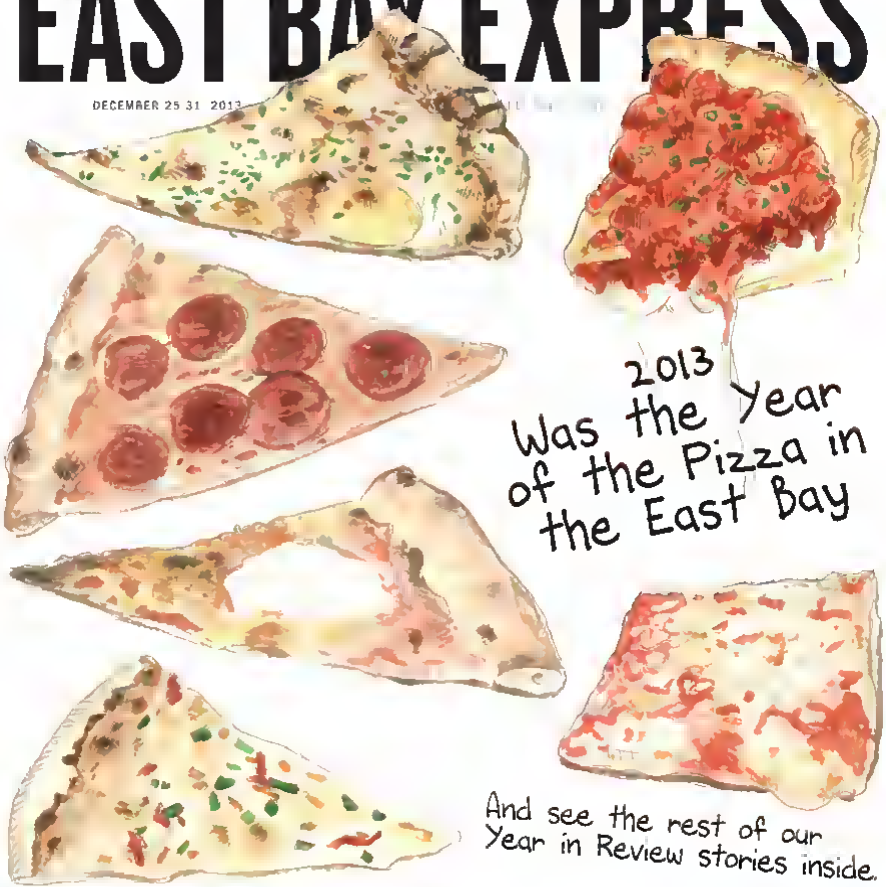
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CONTENTS

NEWS & OPINION

4 **Letters**
5 **Raising the Bar** 2013 was a year of heroes and hope
6 **Seven Days** A waterfront ballpark makes sense.
8 **Year in Towers** The new progressive leader
10 **Year in Review** Big money trumps the environment.
12 **Year in Review** The housing resurgence
13 **Year in Review** The nonprofit surge.
14 **Year in Review** The year in East Bay pizza
16 **Year in Towers** The year in weed.
17 **Year in Review** Back to the future for East Bay sports.
18 **Year in Review** The year in the music festival.

ARTS & CULTURE

19 **New Year's Eve** How to have a New Year's Eve that doesn't suck.
New Year's Eve Listings
Event & Art Walk Listings Josh Kornbluth's Love & Taxes at Rhythma Cultural Works.

23 **Museum & Gallery Listings** *Temporal Void* at Johansson Projects.
25 **Theater & Dance Listings**
26 **Lectures & Literary Listings**

FOOD & DRINK

27 **Dining Review** Oralia's Kitchen.
29 **What the Fork** The best bites of 2013.
30 **Restaurants & Cafes**
31 **Food & Wine Listings**

MOVIES

32 **Movie Towers** *The Wolf of Wall Street* and *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*.
32 **Movie Listings**
34 **One-Night Stands**

MUSIC

35 **News** What's in a like?
36 **Brunch**
37 **CD Reviews** The Gates, Mick Turner, and Life Stinks
38 **Concert & Club Listings**
43 **DJ & Dance Listings**
44 **Savage Love** The elf's the thing!

On the Cover *Illustrations by Thien Pham.*

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LETTERS

Death and PTSD in Oa... Fo... 11

Need Meaningful Intervention

A good article on a topic completely neglected by Oakland's elected officials. For forty years Oakland has had a homicide rate several times the national rate (it's been about 25 per 100,000 people as compared to 5 per 100,000 people). The actual number of shootings over those forty years has been in the tens of thousands, perhaps as high as fifty thousand shootings in all. Is it any wonder that Oakland a black and brown kids have a hard time growing up, doing well in school, and fitting into society?

The only thing to wonder about is why Oakland's elected officials (and the voters who keep them in office) haven't done anything effective to significantly reduce the shootings over forty years. The mayor and council can't even maintain the minimal number of cops to respond to the daily shootings, much less work to do some violence prevention.

The Measure Y "crime prevention" efforts are mostly a joke. A few hours total in a class on how to be "good" spread over a few thousand "at risk" kids cannot do anything. Family interventions can be very helpful for poor and dysfunctional families, as has been demonstrated by the work of Salvador Minuchin and others. Successful interventions require carefully designed policies, really competent implementation, and coordinated management with all other social and justice system efforts. Sadly, Oakland is the one place where the folks with the power who spend the money are completely in over their heads — even if they care.

Michele Oslo, Oakland

Co... Tou... Ba... 11

False Name of Protection

"We know that no one ever seizes power with the intention of relinquishing it. Power is not a means; it is an end."

— George Orwell, 1984

As Obama's concept of government seizes power, we are experiencing the transformation from the days when our personal lives and thoughts were private and we could speak our minds without hesitation, to a time when government is seeing that sanctity from us in the false name of protection. Nothing our enemies can imagine for us could be more harmful, for it is no longer 347 million citizens they must conquer, but only one government that must fall. Before, each one of us was an individual fortress, but today we foolishly relinquish our defense, personal state secrets and dignity to a self-proclaimed god like government that is demonstrating its ability to fumble and to deceive. This is not a partisan issue, but one of human rights for every one of us. Every opinion poll expresses our disgust with this government, and now we must act as citizens to retake the individualism that once commanded the attention of the world.

William H. Thompson, Walnut Creek

Not Concerned with Surveillance

Just so the record is clear: I am one person who is not at all concerned with our new tools to gather information. I suspect there are many like me. I believe I may be safer and healthier as a result of the possible use of such information. If my city can create a safer environment by focused surveillance then I'm all for it. If the federal government can create a safer society, I support it. Yes, we need policies to guide these efforts but we don't need to prevent it or fear it.

Ed Gerber, Oakland

Berkeley Parking Solutions Re... Dec... 11 12 11

Free Parking Promotes Goodwill

Oakland does indeed have a pilot program in Montclair, smart on basic principles. As the Director of the Lakeshore Business Improvement District I am adamantly in favor of these kinds of plans, but it can take time to convince business owners to try these different strategies in fact Lakeshore would probably benefit from increased parking fees.

Also Mr. Gammon is uncharacteristically wrong in that free holder parking does not encourage people to park all day (since this was actually my proposal back in the Nineties while I was chief of staff to Nate Miley). The posted hours for parking are the same. After your one or two free hours are up, you will be ticketed if you don't move. And please never underestimate the power of a gesture like this to promote goodwill toward your fellow citizens and local shoppers.

Pamela Drake, Oakland

Citizens, Not Clients

I was a bit dismayed by your article and its implicit approval of the subject covered. To set the value of parking with market-based pricing means that a service rendered by a city government is now as different than if it were rendered by a free market entrepreneur. It would seem that by the time your car pulls up to the curb, you have paid general taxes to construct and maintain the streets, an additional fee for your motor vehicle registration, yet more taxes on the fuel consumed, and then a market-based meter — all this aligned so that you can enter a store and pay sales tax. Though this might appear to be an anti-tax remark, it really isn't. I don't object to taxes. What I object to is our civil servants in necessity of us not as citizens but as clients in a marketplace.

Steve Seal, Berkeley

The Bay Area Needs Affordable Housing Seven Day 12 11

Need New Revenue

I concur that we are in a housing crisis especially housing for low- and moderate-income families. I also agree that low- and moderate-income housing should not be built solely in areas of existing poverty but rather in mixed-income areas with good schools and services as you suggested. There are many causes of this housing crisis including stagnant income and job growth as well as San Francisco workers coming to Oakland and the East Bay poaching our affordable housing and displacing longtime local residents and disrupting neighborhood social structures.

However I don't think the reactivation of redevelopment or tax-increment financing (TIF) is the answer. Redevelopment TIF revenue as previously conceived was supposed to be used in a blighted area to be redeveloped.

It is probably not a good idea to build new low- and moderate-income housing in blighted (or abused term) neighborhoods. Redevelopment financing robs school and other special districts for needed revenue. These services will be needed to support new housing. In areas where the market will support the development of luxury housing, developers are required to pay impact fees or exactions to set aside say 20 percent of the housing for low- and moderate-income housing.

This is unlikely to help in impacted cities like Oakland, which are not reaping the fruits of job or development gains (and the associated increase in tax revenue), nor is Oakland a large market for luxury housing like San Francisco.

We need a new source of revenue or change in public policy, in subsidize or incentivize the development of mixed income housing. But I don't think reactivating redevelopment will do it. Thank you for raising this housing issue.

Bryan Grunwald, Oakland

Diversity Aids Happiness

I am all for building many more affordable housing and developing mixed neighborhoods. Diversity aids everyone's pursuit of happiness. Why not also implement a complementary program. Create mixed-income housing by building some high-income housing in the "poverty-ridden flatlands of East and West Oakland"? Could we avoid the negative outcomes of gentrification with careful planning, zoning, and policy?

Bernard T. Smith, Oakland

Committed Fans

Lew Wolff is delusional! The As will never compete beyond the first round of the playoffs at the current $80 to $90 million (Lew Wolff) payroll. The As need to at least get into the $80 to $100 million group of franchises. Despite this crazy owner, a committed fan base is here and a committed owner willing to invest in the long term success of the team in Oakland will work. There are local groups out there that believe that they can work with the city and make something happen. Lew, please give us a break and sell as soon as possible!

Gary Patton, Hayward

Fo... Eco Watch 11

Humans Cause More Harm

Those worried about Fukushima should be more worried about the human-caused change to the earth's environments — the overpopulation and the mass extinctions that we are causing.

Randy Monroe, Concord

Heads in the Sand

Thank you for covering the Fukushima issue and for beginning the article with Cynthia Papermaster's cautious "heads up." May I suggest a follow-up article that quotes experts who are concerned about Fukushima Daiichi as well as activists?

It is psychologically difficult to face the enormousness of this unprecedented challenge. There is a common tendency to turn away or put on a head in the sand, all the more so if one is affiliated with the nuclear industry. When assessing accuracy, readers might consider incentives and follow the money. Activists have no incentive to exaggerate the problem. On the contrary, there are many other issues we all tackle of this issue were solved. Truth-tellers incentive is the public good.

I truly wish we could trust those who minimize the problem. But hiding our heads in the sand will not get the risks mitigated. Fortunately, there are many courageous people who tirelessly seek the truth so research solutions together.

Phoebe Sorgen, Berkeley

Oakland Mayor's Race Heats Up Full Disclosure 11 20

Quan Is Isolated From Residents

Don't see that Mayor Jean Quan's actions show a fundamental shift to her politics. But it makes us never mind whether Quan has moved toward what used to be considered center for Oakland. Feels more that about 50 percent of the residents have moved right of the old center and maybe Quan's base of 26 percent have moved further left. The result is that Quan has gotten increasingly isolated from all the residents.

Len Raphael, Oakland

Correction

Our December 18 Eco Watch "An Urban Farm Grows in Albany," misstated the year in which Occupy the Farm occupied and formed the Gill Tract. It was 2012 — not 2013.

2013 WAS A YEAR OF HEROES AND HOPE

And also of disturbing trends.

By Jay Youngdahl



Bill McKibben was one of 2013's heroes

2013 was a year that predicted heroes and hope as well as things to remember and forget. The year also represented a fascinating time in the arc of our species and our planet. Here are my eclectic nominations for noteworthy people, events, and trends of 2013.

Heroes

The City of Richmond. Richmond and its leaders are standing up to Wall Street over the issue of foreclosures. Their gutsy stance challenges an unfair system and deserves our support.

Russell Brand. I don't know what happened between this comedian and Katy Perry but the guy is a one-man wrecking crew when facing the compliant media. The YouTube video in which he takes on a British talking head and talks about why he does not vote is priceless.

Bill McKibben and the 350.org activists. The threats posed by climate change bear a striking resemblance to those posed by atomic bombs sixty years ago: the possibility of ending life as we know it. Climate change also is a hard issue to get one's head around since any progress like with many existential threats, depends on "tying the car as it rolls down the road." McKibben and a cadre of young activists are challenging the status quo, including the use of pension funds that finance corporate activities that produce greenhouse gases.

Dan Pedrotty and Randi Weingarten. Much of the money held in teacher pensions is funneled to private equity moguls who use these profits to fund the movement to destroy public education. While many people in the labor movement pay attention to the use of accumulated workers pension funds, these leaders of the American Federation of Teachers do not play favorites so they effectively target financial professionals who profit from workers' pension money while funding the destruction of the very institutions that educate our children.

Matt Taibbi. He has single-handedly made *Rolling Stone* magazine relevant again, and his writing on the banking crisis is by far the best around. Ha names names — something few journalists are willing to do today.

Edward Snowden, Chelsea Manning, and Glenn Greenwald. We bow to these three. They are fighting for us, and especially future generations, on governments seek pervasive oversight of every aspect of our lives.

Laura Agustin and Kristen DiAngelo. The culture of "rescue" in which the royal "we" lecture "they" (i.e., sex workers) as to how "they" should act has produced a cottage industry. Agustin, the author of The Naked Anthropologist blog, takes on this third rail, as she cogently argues on behalf of those who choose to make their living in sex, while strongly challenging those who exploit women and children. Her cruelsense of the "savior" culture are spot on, and her fusion the courage of sex workers around the world is important. And we should salute Kristen DiAngelo, the brave sex worker who testified in Sacramento this month. She spoke against a disgusting state regulation that banned rape victims from receiving victim compensation funds if they were attacked while involved in an act of prostitution. State regulators overturned that rule after DiAngelo's testimony.

A few governmental regulators. It is hard to be a government worker today reviled as they are. Yet a number of good regulations came from the federal government this year, including moves to restrict antibiotics in livestock and transfats in food products. And California regulators continue to be the best in the nation at doing their jobs, even in the face of dwindling resources.

Those who work for California's environment. The state has lots of problems but compared to other states and nations we are leading the way on the environment. We have a new national park, Pinnacles, and, locally river otters are back.

Hope

Hope for athletes. The genie is out of the bottle on the debilitating effects meted out to our sports heroes who play the violent games that give many of us joy. The plethora of routine and horrifying head injuries in the NFL is finally on the table. Through lawsuits and heroic stands by former athletes professional sports are going to have to change soon. This is a very good thing. Further, through dogged legal challenges the financial exploitation of college athletes is going to be admitted as well.

Hope for low-wage workers. Now that the working class and our kids are facing a future of low-wage employment without pensions, a movement is arising to put the focus of outrage on the fast-food industry. Combined with the growing success of the movement to confront Walmart's destructive practices, we are seeing a healthy reaction to the impoverishment of America.

Hope for Oakland. The city has lots of problems, especially those facing African-American youth. But Oakland continues to be one of the most vibrant and creative locations in the world. It is a petri dish of how to live in and govern a politically city that respects all people in the 21st century.

Trends

We live in the fall of the American empire. When great powers lose their nerve as our country has, it is an ugly time. The fear of a declining future can unleash anxiety, meanness, and a grabbiness to protect what we have. This was what was behind the bizarre debate a few months ago as to whether our country and our citizens are "exceptional." Sure, we are but so is everyone else.

Capitalism is a sorry excuse for an economic system. With on present viable alternative, contemporary capitalism continues to produce cruel economic results and a twisted morality. But a debate is underway. Even the Harvard Business School, the birthplace of many of capitalism's excesses has a large project in "Rethinking Capitalism." The Argentinian Pope is hammering on this theme everyday too. I doubt he is the global "Man of the Year" but his comments on economics are very helpful.

In America, a promise is no longer a promise. In the recent municipal bankruptcies, promises made to municipal workers including cops and firefighters, are being swept away. If a promise by the government can no longer be relied upon in the United States, why should any of us keep any promises? This is a very unfortunate and successful trend for us all — economically and ethically.

The death of personal responsibility. When the dismantling of the social safety net began in the Reagan administration, the ideological tool was the argument that the welfare queens and lazy workers need to take some personal responsibility for their problems. Now that our government has made great progress in dismantling pesky social programs, the words "personal responsibility" have vanished from our lexicon. But looking at the behavior of the elite today, it almost makes me long for a return of the personal responsibility debate. And my vote for new word of the year is "aff'enza." It is a condition held by the wealthy who commit crimes but who try to shirk responsibility — as in, "affluenza made them do it."

Endless war. In a recent Congressional hearing President Obama's top experts on Afghanistan admitted they did not know much our country spends on the war each year or the American cost in lost lives on the battlefield. What a travesty. A close second in the contest for uncheerfulness of the year was the liberal thuggery for an invasion of Syria, when the media trumpeted chemical weapons use. The knee-jerk reaction, given the forces at work in that country and the tragic mess that is Iraq today, was embarrassing. Many seem so disconnected from the reality of our current state of endless war and its effects for those who fight it that it almost makes one long for a return of a universal military draft.

And, Finally, a Fascinating Trend

Adaptation is key. Few in the environmental movement think we can reverse climate change, and now the focus is on how to adapt. Some now advocate the interesting concept of "bio mimicry" as a way for our species to learn from others species that face difficult and changing conditions. Given all the changes around us, focusing on adaptation might be a healthy response in all facets of our lives.

Nice to know you 2013. ●

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SEVEN DAYS

A WATERFRONT BALLPARK MAKES SENSE

The plan for a new A's stadium at Howard Terminal would likely help continue the revitalization of downtown Oakland

By Robert Gammon

In recent weeks, A's co-owner Lew Wolff has indicated a renewed interest in keeping the team in Oakland rather than moving it to San Jose. Specifically, Wolff has begun to focus on the possibility of building a new ballpark within Coliseum City — a massive mixed-use development to be erected on public land currently occupied by the Oakland Alameda County Coliseum and Arena. But while Wolff's apparent change of heart is good news for A's fans who don't want the team to leave, a rival proposal to build a waterfront ballpark near Jack London Square likely would be a better idea for the city.

The waterfront ballpark plan, which is being pushed by a group of Oakland business leaders and team boosters, involves building a privately financed 34,000-seat stadium at Howard Terminal on Port of Oakland property. The site is close to downtown and is readily accessible. It's not far from the 12th Street BART station and is only a few blocks from AC Transit lines and the free Broadway Shuttle. It's also right next to the Oakland ferry terminal and is just a short walk from the Amtrak station. Plus, the surrounding neighborhood features plenty of parking on weeknights and weekends.

But, more importantly, the proximity to downtown would help the continued revitalization of Oakland's urban core. In fact, privately financed baseball stadiums — and basketball arenas — make financial sense for downtown areas because of the large number of events they host each year. A new A's ballpark would feature at least 81 home games, plus other events at the site, that promise to draw a total of about 3 million fans every year. And many of those fans are people who may not otherwise visit downtown Oakland. (This port is interested in providing the property for the ballpark because Howard Terminal is being phased out as a shipping terminal, and a stadium would help revitalize the port's real estate properties in Jack London Square.)

As such, ballpark patrons would provide a financial shot in the arm for bars, restaurants, and retail throughout Oakland's downtown and waterfront areas. And since many of the establishments that stand to benefit are small, independently owned businesses, a waterfront ballpark also would fit better with the city's shop-local ethos. The Coliseum City project, by contrast, is being fashioned after LA Live in Los Angeles, and thus will likely attract chain retailers owned and operated by large corporations.

A new privately financed basketball arena at Howard Terminal also makes sense for the same reasons. At fifty-plus acres, the site is large enough to accommodate both a baseball stadium and a new basketball facility for the Golden State Warriors. Plus, an arena would host at least 41 professional basketball games a year, along with concerts and other events. So it, too, would help revitalize the area. A new football stadium in downtown, by contrast, wouldn't have as much impact because it would host so few events: The Raiders play only eight regular-season home games a year.

Although the Warriors owners seem intent on moving the team to a waterfront site near downtown San Francisco, Oakland city leaders would be smart to begin talks with the team about a new arena at Howard Terminal. After all, at least one of the Warriors owners, Joe Lacob, is reportedly interested in being part of an effort to buy the As and build a new ballpark on Oakland's waterfront, according to knowledgeable sources. (Lacob declined to talk about the issue with the *Express*. Warriors co-owner Peter Guber told the *Los Angeles Times* that he's not interested in buying the A's, but declined to comment as to whether Lacob is.)

According to sources, Lacob is part of one of at least three groups that have expressed interest in purchasing the A's and building a ballpark at Howard Terminal, as the *Express* first reported on its website last week. Wolff responded by telling the *Oakland Tribune* that the team is not for sale. He also dismissed the Howard Terminal proposal as being unfeasible, but then hinted that he and his partners might be interested in keeping the As in Oakland after all, at Coliseum City.

In short, the revelation that other wealthy investors are interested in buying the A's and building a new ballpark in Oakland seems to have forced Wolff's hand. Over the past several years, he has repeatedly told Major League Baseball (MLB) — and the rest of the world — that there are no viable locations for a new As stadium in Oakland. But it's now obvious he can no longer make that claim.

Moreover, his plan to move the A's to the South Bay is dead in the water. A judge recently short-circuited a lawsuit filed by the City of San Jose against MLB that sought to allow the team to move. In addition, court documents in the case revealed that Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig rejected Wolff's proposal for a new ballpark in San Jose last June. The league has repeatedly refused to okay the proposed move because the San Francisco Giants own the territorial rights to the South Bay.

Wolff seems to finally understand that his team is going nowhere — hence, his renewed interest in Coliseum City. And while a downtown ballpark makes more sense for Oakland, the Coliseum City development would also provide positive outcomes for the city. The huge project will generate thousands of jobs and produce millions in tax revenues for Oakland. As a result, it would help the cash-strapped city pay for much-needed services and social programs that endured devastating cuts during the recession. Plus, the project is much further along than Howard Terminal. It already has deep-pocketed investors who have publicly sworn forward to say that they're interested in financing it.

In other words, Coliseum City is a worthy project. It just won't do much for Oakland's downtown. ●

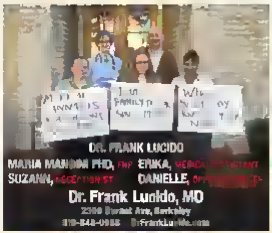
Steven Downs contributed to this report.

Seven Days is culled from our blog of the same name.

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Think indie

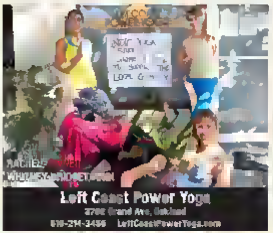
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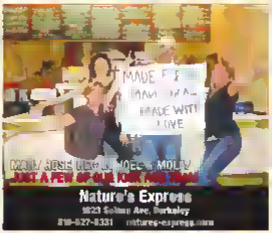
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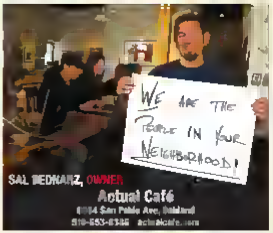
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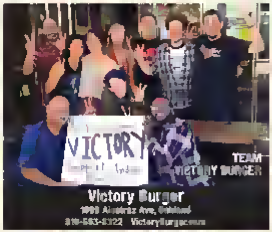


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McLaughlin traveled to Ecuador this year to create alliances with progressives opposed to Chevron John Gelardi

YEAR IN REVIEW

THE NEW PROGRESSIVE LEADER

Richmond has seized the mantle as one of the most progressive cities in the nation by taking on such colossi es Big Oil, Big Sode, and Big Banks

By John Gelardi

In years past, when the mainstream press turned its gaze toward Richmond, it usually was to report on one of three things homicides, public corruption, or fiery accidents at the Chevron refinery. But now when reporters and satellite trucks descend on the city it's usually because the Richmond City Council has again thumbed its nose at powerful corporate interests by proposing some of the most progressive legislation in the country.

Since 2008, when progressive candidates began to wrest control of the city council from the long reigning pro-Chevron majority the seven member panel has become one of the most forward-thinking elected bodies nationwide. And Richmond's ascendancy has come at a time when other legendary progressive bastions of the Bay Area such as Berkeley San Francisco, Oakland, and Sebastopol, have become more cautious and unwilling to take on the powers that be.

Being a national leader on progressive issues, of course, is not without costs. Taking on corporate goliaths means inking no corporate media, which has often attacked Richmond as a renegade city that has breached the boundaries of common sense and the law. But despite its underdog status and a few battle scars, Richmond has become something of a national populist icon in the more progressive media and certainly in working-class communities that continue to bear the brunt of the 2008 financial crisis.

Under the leadership of Mayor Gayle McLaughlin, the Richmond City Council has taken on the Chevron refinery, the city's largest taxpayer and the region's largest polluter for avoiding its utility tax, having repeated accidents and dangerous operating conditions, being reluctant to be inspected, and for coming up with a poorly planned facility upgrade. The council has also taken stands against the soda industry, PG&E, the casino industry, and more recently the Wall Street banking industry — perhaps its most powerful foe yet.

Richmond was hit particularly hard when the speculative housing bubble burst in 2008. According to City Manager Bill Lindsay more that 50 percent of homes in Richmond are still underwater. In many cases, homeowners are carrying mortgages that are twice the value of their properties. A spate of foreclosures in Richmond also has created a wide swath of blight through the city's working-class neighborhoods, which has further damaged home values. Similar stories have played out across the country. More than 5 million people lost their homes to foreclosure nationwide, and 11 million families — one fifth of all homeowners — continue to carry underwater mortgages that were created by the shoddy lending policies of large banks. The banks sold any unscrupulously bad loans with two predatory lending practices, and now they want to stop the city from providing a much needed fix to the problem that they have caused," McLaughlin told me in a recent interview.

While the *Wall Street Journal*, Reuters, Bloomberg Business Week, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and the *Contra Costa Times* have all attacked Richmond's plan to help underwater homeowners stay in their homes the proposal nonetheless enjoys widespread public support. During a recent council meeting, more than 200 hundred people rallied in the city's Civic Center plaza, waving placards, banging on drums, and chanting in favor of the plan. And many cities are thinking of joining Richmond. El Monte, in Southern California, Seattle, Washington and Irving, New Jersey are expected to join forces in a Joint Powers Authority to move forward with the plan to use eminent domain to seize mortgages and refinance them to make them cheaper for homeowners. The traditional progressive cities of Oakland and Berkeley have offered token support of Richmond's eminent domain proposal but have refused to join the effort out of fear of legal and financial retributions from Wall Street.

Richmond is still in the exploratory phase of the eminent domain proposal and yet banking and real estate interests, as well as a federal agency, have begun preemptive intimidation actions against the city. Wells Fargo, Deutsche Bank AG, and The Bank of New York Mellon attempted and failed to get a federal injunction against the eminent domain plan and the Federal Housing Finance Agency has threatened sanctions and litigation against the city if it moves forward with its proposal. And the money has begun to flow against the program. The California Board of Realtors and the National Association of Realtors have already poured more than $70,000 into a hit piece flyer mailed to city residents.

But McLaughlin, now a seasoned veteran of corporate attacks, remains undaunted. "We are being leaders now by advancing an innovative program that provides significant help to the people we serve. Leading is rarely without conflict. We should not be averse to face such conflict," McLaughlin said at recent council meeting. "We should stand up against Wall Street and for our community. If not us, then who will do so?"

Facing powerful opposition to progressive proposals is nothing new. It's long been a standard reaction to progressive movements' moneyed forces throwing their vast resources and political influence against what are usually grassroots efforts. Since the 19th century businesses, religious organizations, and machine politicians have all sought to block progressive and populist movements.

Corporate interests, in fact, vigorously opposed dozens of progressive policies that we now take for granted. Underhanded grassroots efforts had to overcome huge odds to establish anti-sweatshop child labor laws, the suffragette movement, regulation of corporations and monopolies, and the conservation of natural parks and wildlife refuges.

And similar opposition forces have attempted to sabotage the Richmond City Council. In the 2012 election, the Richmond Progressive Alliance, which refuses all corporate contributions and organizes grassroots support for progressive candidates and policies, was outspent forty-to-one by corporate interests. Chevron spent $1.2 million on a failed attempt to regain control of the city council. And to that the soda pop giant Coca-Cola added $1.5 million effort to defeat the progressive Measure N, which would have levied a one-cent tax on sugary drinks to offset their ill health effects.

Other progressive Bay Area cities have experienced the same kind of pressure. Former San Francisco Supervisor Aaron Peskin, who served on the city's progressive-controlled board from 2000 to 2008, said the opposition to progressive politics can be overwhelming. The district-elected board, which was unbeholden to real estate developers or corporate interests took city politics to the left by enacting progressive policies such as universal healthcare, a minimum wage increase, and $450 million in affordable housing bonds.

As a result, the board of supervisors found itself battling multinational corporations headquartered in San Francisco and wealthy individuals such as Donald Fisher a successful real estate developer who co-founded The Gap. "When I was first elected, I was a reasonable person and I thought we could all sit down and work things out, but they had an interest whatsoever in negotiating," Peskin said. "It was their way or the highway and they had endless resources to hire consultants, PR firms, and spokespeople who had no trouble spreading false and scurrilous information through websites, advertising, and robocalls. They would literally just make things up and they were relentless in their efforts to control a democratically elected board of supervisors."

The City of Berkeley was once the leader of progressive municipal policy. Berkeley was the first city to protest apartheid by divesting from South Africa; it also created the first police review panel, first tool lending library, and the first curbside recycling program. It enacted the first Styrofoam ban and was the first city to require curb cuts for wheelchairs. But it's been a long time since Berkeley has been out in front in new policy, said longtime Berkeley progressive Councilmember Kriss Worthington. Berkeley politics have become more sedate because the African-American and working-class families who largely supported progressive policies in the past have been driven out of town by high rents and home prices. Worthington said many of the same progressive ideas Richmond has acted on were also proposed in Berkeley but were not approved by the council. "In a way, Richmond's council is less progressive than it is populist," Worthington said. "They have been very successful in standing up for the little guy, which is quite os pressive."

Worthington added that it remains to be seen if Richmond's progressive policies represents a permanent shift to the left or if it will just be McLaughlin's legacy. In fact, Richmond's progressive faction took some heavy late in the 2012 election. Perhaps the most popular progressive councilmember, Jeff Ritterman, decided to not run for reelection, and his proposed soda tax ballot measure went down in flames at the ballot box. Furthermore, McLaughlin will be termed out of the mayor's office in 2014 and it's not clear whether the Richmond Progressive Alliance will be able to run a candidate who can effectively match her popularity among city residents.

Chevron is already gearing up for the next election, and, if the eminent domain proposal goes forward, banking interests could possibly kick in millions to defeat progressive candidates. "A lot will depend on the next election," said Councilman Tom Butt, who frequently votes with the council's progressive bloc. "Five of seven seats are open and that will either solidify or break the progressive influence on the council. We will either continue with the progressives or go back to the old days when Richmond worked for Chevron."

In an email, Chevron spokesperson Melissa Ritchie avoided taking a public stand against the city's progressive faction. "Chevron is dedicated to helping Richmond thrive, and we are committed to not only or proving the quality of life for all residents but transforming the economic landscape of this community," Ritchie wrote. Last week, the US Chemical Safety Board recommended sweeping changes at Chevron's Richmond refinery in the wake of a massive fire in August 2012 that sent 15,000 Richmond residents to local hospitals with claims of breathing difficulties. In what many considered an effort to offset the blast to its public image, Chevron recently invested $155 million in a five-year effort to help small businesses, expand job training, and improve schools in Richmond.

McLaughlin, meanwhile, said her basic political philosophy remains the same as when she first won a council seat in 2004. "I've always asked, 'How can we organize, how can we push back?' There's an other way to live as far as I'm concerned ... to work for a just future, a sustainable future," she told me. "And that's what I'll continue to do."

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BIG MONEY TRUMPS THE ENVIRONMENT

Although Democrats control the governor's office and the state legislature, corporate interests proved once again in 2013 that they control California's environmental agenda.

By Robert Gammon

The first half of 2013 was a heady time for the environmental movement in California. After all, there was a Democrat in the governor's office who talked openly about the need to address climate change, and Democrats enjoyed a super majority in both houses of the state legislature. By spring, Democrats had introduced numerous bills in Sacramento that sought to strengthen the state's environmental laws, including several that would have enacted a ban on fracking — the controversial oil and gas extraction method that involves shooting water and toxic chemicals deep into the earth. But by late summer hope had turned to heartbreak, after Big Oil and Gas interests unleashed a barrage of campaign donations and intense lobbying efforts to block or gut environmental bills, one by one.

By fall, it was clear that Big Money had trumped the environment once again and that it didn't really matter whether Democrats or Republicans were in control in Sacramento. And so by year's end, 2013 turned out to be a disappointment for the environment save for a few bright spots here and there. "It was a tough year," noted Jeff Miller of the Center for Biological Diversity. "We lost big on fracking."

Here's our list of some of this year's environmental losses, along with a few small victories:

Losses

Fracking. No environmental story was more discouraging in 2013 than this one. For a time, it looked as if lawmakers might actually place a moratorium on fracking, so that state regulators could thoroughly examine its impacts on the environment. A lot was at stake. Fracking has been linked to groundwater contamination, air pollution and even earthquakes. Plus, fracking furthers our dependence on fossil fuels at time when climate scientists agree we should be transitioning rapidly to renewable energy.

But there's also a lot of money to be made from the state's massive Monterey Shale deposit. So oil and gas companies mounted a full-court offensive in Sacramento, desperate to get their hands on the estimated 15 billion barrels of fossil fuels that fracking promises to extract in California. And following a series of closed-door meetings, they got what they wanted in the waning days of the 2013 legislative session. Democratic state Senator Fran Pavley agreed to eleventh hour amendments to her bill SB 4 — amendments that require the state to approve all fracking requests during the next two years as long as certain conditions are met. And to make matters worse, Governor Jerry Brown had the temerity to claim that SB 4 was a win for the environment — even though nearly every environmental group in the state had opposed the oil and gas industry-sponsored changes to the bill.

The giant water tunnels. The fight over Brown's $25 billion plan to build two massive water tunnels underneath the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta is not over yet, but the governor, who views the tunnels as a legacy project, appears intent on putting the full weight of his administration behind it despite the fact that it could ruin the fragile delta. The tunnels threaten to divert too much freshwater from the Sacramento River before it reaches the delta, raising concerns that they will make the largest estuary on the West Coast too salty for numerous fish species, including endangered salmon and smelt. The project also promises to wreck the livelihoods of many small farmers in the Delta region.

So who would benefit? Big Business: large farms that would receive freshwater to grow crops and livestock in a dry desert area of the San Joaquin Valley that is controlled by the Westlands Water District, one of the most powerful political forces in state politics. If what happened with fracking this year is any indication, then it's a good bet that the water tunnels will get built.

Food waste. According to the US Department of Agriculture, about 49 million Americans went hungry at some point in 2013. And yet we learned this year that 40 percent of the American food supply is wasted — mostly because of misleading labels with use or sell-by dates that have nothing to do with food safety. All that waste also worsens greenhouse gas emissions, overloads our landfills, and costs us about $165 billion a year. Plus, the problem is deepening. The amount of food we waste has doubled in the past forty years.

Antibiotic-resistant bugs. Another disturbingly large number that made headlines this year was 23,000. That's the number of Americans who die annually from antibiotic-resistant super bugs. And the primary culprit for the use of super bugs nationwide is factory farming — specifically, the widespread use of antibiotics on livestock so that animals won't get sick while living shoulder-to-shoulder in close quarters, standing in their own excrement. Earlier this month, the FDA announced a plan to eliminate the use of antibiotics in factory farming, but environmental groups criticized the proposal because it's a voluntary program.

The possible end of pastured eggs. The FDA came under even more intense criticism for proposed rules released earlier this year that threaten to put pastured-egg farmers out of business. Eggs produced from chickens that live outdoors on pastureland — as opposed to cramped indoor facilities — are not only healthier for you, but also are better for chickens and the environment. But environmental groups note that the FDA's proposed rules, which are designed to keep





The ban on lead ammunition in hunting is expected to help protect California condors and other large raptors.

pastured chickens away from wild animals or an attempt to prevent disease, are unspoiled because factory farms are the real cause of food-borne illnesses nationwide — not pastured-chicken farms.

Victories

The ban on lead ammunition. Assembly Bill 711, which banned the use of all lead ammunition in hunting in California, was perhaps the only true environmental win that year in Sacramento. The ban, which Brown signed into law will protect wildlife in the state from mistaking lead fragments and particles for food and from ingesting lead-poisoned carcasses of animals shot by hunters.

Marine wilderness. California is poised to create the first marine wilderness on the West Coast, thanks to an appellate court ruling that denied a request by a controversial oyster farm to remain open at Point Reyes National Seashore. However the oyster business, Drakes Bay Oyster Company has refused to leave and has asked for a rehearing in front of the full Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. A decision is expected next year.

Urban growth. Proposals for dense housing projects in Berkeley Oakland, and other cities in California were on the rise in 2013 — a positive development in the fight against climate change. The expansion of smart-growth, or transit-oriented development, is essential to curbing suburban sprawl and limiting the quantity of greenhouse gases produced by long car commutes. Governor Brown also may have helped this effort this year by approving a few reforms to state law that promise to help make it easier to build smart-growth projects in urban areas.

Bicycling. Oakland continued on its path to becoming a more bike-friendly city thereby encouraging people to use cars less often. The city, at the strong urging of bicycle-activist groups, expanded the number of bike lanes and "sharrows" (large arrows painted on streets to remind motorists to share the road with cyclists). The city however also took a step backward when it ended a bike-friendly pilot program that had banned cars in Latham Square in downtown.

The elimination of flame retardants. California also finally addressed the environmental health problems posed by flame retardants, adopting new flammability standards for furniture and other consumer products. The new rules allow manufacturers to stop using toxic flame retardant chemicals, which pose numerous health concerns, including harming brain development.

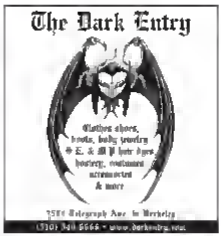
Fighting back. Although it was mostly a bad year for the environment, one new development late in the year presented a ray of hope for turning things around in 2014. In recognition that politicians often respond to public pressure, some environmental activists in California have started to directly confront Democratic elected officials who claim to be green but then side with corporate polluters when it really matters.

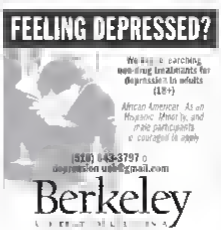
The most visible of these direct action campaigns has involved Governor Brown. Throughout the fall of 2013, environmental activists hounded the governor showing up at his public events and protesting his decision to greenlight fracking. The demonstrations have made Brown uncomfortable while raising the public profile of the anti-fracking cause.

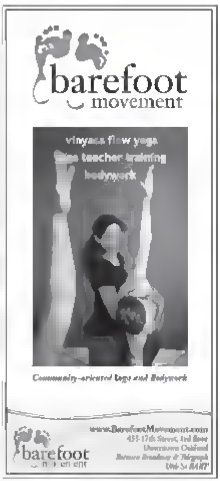
And then last week, environmental activists ratcheted up their efforts by launching the "Big Oil Brown" campaign, which seeks to highlight the governor's hypocrisy his claim of being a climate champion while agreeing to expand fracking after accepting millions in donations from oil and gas interests for his political campaigns and favorite causes. "The oil industry in California — and throughout the nation — is really trying to manipulate our Democracy" said David Turnbull of Oil Change International an environmental group that keeps close tab on the political influence wielded by oil and gas companies throughout the country "And we need to hold people accountable when they talk a bout climate change."

And holding Democrats accountable in California may be the only effective way for environmentalists to combat the power of Big Money in the years ahead.

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THE HOUSING RESURGENCE

After years of dormancy, housing projects in Oakland are surging back to life

By Madeleine Key



A former General Electric building will transform into Lampwork Lofts.

In October Gabriel Metcalf, the executive director of SPUR, a Bay Area urban planning think tank, wrote an article for *The Atlantic Cities* entitled "The San Francisco Exodus." In it he neatly explained what now seems obvious. Years of efforts to prevent new housing from being built in San Francisco has greatly accelerated the staggering rise in housing prices. Ironically Metcalf pointed out, if recent attempts to preserve the city have actually resulted in its upheaval as more and more people are priced out of living there.

Similar dynamics are underway in Berkeley. In September, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported that housing there has become so scarce, single-family homes are being remodeled to accommodate as many as a dozen students into so-called "mini-dorms."

"In the Bay Area, there are far fewer options that fit the criteria of walkable, transit proximate and affordable," Metcalf wrote in his article. "For many of my friends, there is just one: Oakland."

After years of stagnation, Oakland is experiencing a surge of interest in housing development. The Great Recession made it nearly impossible for would be developers in Oakland to secure construction loans (as was true of much of the rest of the country). But as job growth and the economy improve across the region — and residents are increasingly forced out of San Francisco — a diverse range of housing projects are finally getting a jumpstart in Oakland.

"It's a really exciting time for Oakland," said Rachel Flynn, director of the city's planning and building department. "Projects that have been dormant since the meltdown are coming back, either because new developers are interested in the land or they've been able to get funding. Some original developers are shifting their interest from offices to housing. We're on the verge of seeing a lot of growth and changes in housing."

The experts interviewed for this story agreed that Oakland is uniquely situated for housing development. The city has large swaths of vacant and underdeveloped land and many potential sites for renovation and rehabilitation. "The thing about Oakland is, unlike San Francisco or Manhattan, there are ample opportunities for growth," said Michael Ghielmetti, president of Signature Development Group, which is leading the 3.5 million square-foot development known as Brooklyn Basin on the city's waterfront. "There's just more room." Ghielmetti said the wealthy Chinese investment team that is financing Brooklyn Basin recently announced that they're fast-tracking the development to take advantage of Oakland's red-hot housing market. The 3,000-unit development, which will include housing for a range of incomes, including 400 affordable units, is slated to break ground in March.

A report released on the feasibility of development in downtown Oakland, which was released in October and prepared for the city's planning and building department, concluded that locations "near a BART station and along accessible corridors show great promise for development as soon as next year." The report also concluded that while low-rise development is more feasible because it's cheaper to build, the "scale is slowly tipping to make high-rise development more attractive." Flynn clarified that the exception is Uptown.

Seth Hanrahan, founder of the Mission Bay Development Group, has submitted a pre-application to the city for a 28-story housing development at 19th Street and Broadway. However the impact the recession had on Oakland building proposals shouldn't be underestimated. A different plan submitted in 2008 at the same site was for a 55-story building.

The fall, the real estate firm Madison Park Financial opened the first market rate multi-family housing units in Oakland in four years. Bakery Lofts 3, which straddles Emeryville and Oakland, is the final stage of a development project that was started more than a decade ago. The 79-unit project has filled up much more quickly than expected and is fetching higher rents then projected, according to Mike Moore, director of property management at Madison Park Financial.

John Protopappas, president and CEO of Madison Park Financial, pointed out that although there are a lot of projects being "discussed, contemplated, or in the process of being approved," his firm is also the only one to have broken ground on new market-rate apartments in Oakland. Protopappas is an advocate of selecting former industrial sites for rehabilitation and renovation, which he said helps preserve the look and feel of an existing neighborhood. The project he broke ground on earlier this year is Lampwork Lofts, which will house 92 units at 16th and Campbell streets in West Oakland in a historic building formerly used by General Electric to make lamps. It's slated to open its doors next May.

"What we're doing is part of the natural evolution of a neighborhood," said Protopappas. "Sites like ours are no longer suitable for industrial development. Neighbors don't want trucks rumbling down the road. "But we sure can't build anything like what's already there," he added referring to the warehouse's brick, heavy timber and high ceilings.

In reference to Lampwork Lofts Flynn said, "That's key — allowing for growth, but also the diversity and uniqueness that people like, an local quality remains."

Rent prices in Oakland continued to rise this year in part due to an influx of people being priced out of San Francisco, raising concerns about access and displacement. "In Oakland, there's a paradoxical dilemma ... If development comes too fast, if prices raise too much due to demand will existing residents be forced out? There is of course a real appreciation as well." Metcalf told me. "The single biggest thing I can think of is really encouraging new supply... so pressure on the existing housing stock is eased."

But how that pressure is eased is up for debate. In early November, the firm that has been in charge of redeveloping Jack London Square for the past decade, Ellis Partners, submitted a proposal to the city requesting that it be able to build housing on two sites that sit directly on the waterfront. The proposal includes three residential options for each site, including a twenty-story option. The sites are currently slated for retail, office, and entertainment use. But Jim Ellis, the firm's co-founder and managing principal said that bringing in more people to the neighborhood is crucial to the success of the rest of the project's goals.

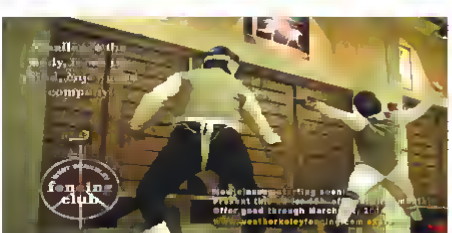
"Our goal as the master developer for Jack London Square is to make it an urban, mixed-used sustainable development that allows for various uses to be located in one district. We believe adding housing to our mixed-use project will help bring more people to its other components — namely retail and entertainment," Ellis said. "Introducing residential use will foster and activate the rest of the development."

"IN THE BAY AREA, THERE ARE FAR FEWER OPTIONS THAT FIT THE CRITERIA OF WALKABLE, TRANSIT-PROXIMATE AND AFFORDABLE," METCALF WROTE. "FOR MANY OF MY FRIENDS THERE IS JUST ONE: OAKLAND."

But Michael Carlill, managing partner of The Oakland America Company and a co-developer of The Port Workspaces, two historic buildings in Jack London Square that have been renovated as modern co-working spaces, has qualms about the potential development of luxury condos on the waterfront. Without ground-level public access (like retail), he fears condos would kill the neighborhood, rather than help revive it, and set a dangerous precedent for future development of the waterfront. In an email he likened the proposal to the 8 Washington Condo project in San Francisco, which city voters recently rejected.

"Oakland has precious, finite resources like Lake Merritt and its waterfront," he told me. "So far areas like downtown have really been preserved from overdevelopment. You don't get second chances to keep a city interesting and walkable."

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THE NONPROFIT SHIFT

As office rents rose dramatically in San Francisco, charitable organizations relocated to Oakland, bringing new services and advocacy efforts to the East Bay

By Sam Levin

Clean Water Action might have been willing to stomach a 21 percent increase in rent to renew the lease on its downtown San Francisco location this year. But the landlord's demands were much higher. In order to stay, the California chapter of the national nonprofit organization would have had to pay three times as much. "It was just completely unpossible," said Miriam Gordon, California director for Clean Water Action. "Tripling our rent was certainly out of the question."

The group searched for new locations in San Francisco, but found nothing feasible. So in March, the environmental nonprofit packed its bags and headed across the bay to its new office suite in Frank Ogawa Plaza in downtown Oakland. The space is much nicer, Gordon said, and the organization is paying roughly the same price in rent per square footage as it was in its original San Francisco lease.

There was another important benefit to the move. Many of its partner nonprofits were also relocating from San Francisco to Oakland for the exact same reason. "I call it the great nonprofit diaspora," she joked.

In the environmental sector alone, there are at least four additional nonprofits that have recently moved offices from San Francisco to Oakland. Food and Water Watch, the Pesticide Action Network North America, As You Sow, and Green Corps. The trend over the last year, however, extends to organizations that do a diverse range of work, including forest social services, national LGBT policy advocacy, faith-based activism, prisoner's rights work, and more.

The common denominator is skyrocketing rents as leases signed during the height of the recession expire. As of October of this year, the average asking rental rate for office space in San Francisco was $50.30 per square foot annually, according to Garrick Brown, director of research for Northern California for Cassidy Turley, a commercial real estate company. In downtown Oakland, that equivalent average is $29.28 per square foot annually. The current average for office rent in San Francisco reflects a nearly 50 percent jump since 2010 when rents fell to a low of $31.51 per square foot, Brown said. According to his firm's data, one nonprofit organization that moved across the bay in the spring signed a lease in Oakland with a rate of $21.40 per square foot — a fraction of the current average in San Francisco.

Additionally, the vacancy rate for office space in San Francisco is now at 6.4 percent, which is the lowest level Cassidy Turley has recorded since 2001, Brown said. And while there's more than two million square feet of new office space under construction in the city, it's unclear if this real estate will be affordable for nonprofits once they are on the market, he said. Given these factors, Brown predicted that companies will continue to be priced out of San Francisco through the first half of 2015.



Courtesy of Pesticide Action Network

The Pesticide Action Network found office space in Oakland that was 50 percent cheaper than its previous location in San Francisco.

In addition to anecdotal evidence of relocations in 2013, Cassidy Turley's research shows that organizations are continuing to look to Oakland as an alternative option. The firm said it is tracking nine different office tenants — some of which are nonprofits — that currently reside in San Francisco and are actively exploring new Oakland locations, representing a total interest of 185,000 square feet.

The Pesticide Action Network North America moved in fall 2012 to a downtown Oakland office where rent was 38 percent cheaper than that of its downtown San Francisco home of twelve years. The group's lease was set to expire in spring 2013, and rent was expected to rise by 50 percent and Steve Scholl Buckwald, chief financial officer. "We have always had more staff living in the East Bay than anywhere else," he noted, adding that three employees have since moved here from San Francisco so that about 65 percent of the staff now live on this side of the bay. The shift comes after the organization spent nearly three decades in San Francisco. In the new Oakland office, he said, "Generally, people are very happier."

For some longtime San Francisco activists and organizations, however, the movement to the East Bay is a somewhat depressing sign about the state of advocacy efforts and social services in the city. "It's only the really super endowed organizations that can afford to stay in San Francisco," said Gordon. "As someone who has always worked in downtown San Francisco, it's incredibly disappointing to see San Francisco become this monotonous center for young, startup techie people — and I also think it's unbelievable that these young startups are willing to pay such high prices for rent. The landlords are getting a great deal with these companies."

Indeed, the nonprofit departure from San Francisco coincides with the city's rapid growth as a hub for technology startups. In 2012, private tech startup companies across the Silicon Valley and San Francisco region raised $8 billion total in venture capital funds — and are on track to raise nearly $9 billion in 2013, according to data from research firm CB Insights.

The surge in this sector helped create an environment that made it increasingly difficult for City of Refuge United Church of Christ, which runs a nonprofit foundation, to remain in San Francisco. The church recently sold its SoMa building on Howard Street and bought a space in East Oakland on Enterprise Way near the airport. The organization was able to purchase the new property for roughly two-thirds of the San Francisco selling price and gained an additional 10,000 square feet in the process. And a lot more parking spaces.

"It became clear what the neighborhood was saying to us: That is not a haven for social services," said Yvette Flunder, senior pastor with the church and CEO of the Yvette Flunder Foundation, the nonprofit affiliate. "By and large, if you look around, there has been a degree of exodus of social services from the city. So many [organizations] have been horribly disturbed, anyway."

At the same time, the said, "There has been an exodus from San Francisco of people of color." That means many potential clients — the foundation supports people with HIV and often works with LGBT people of color — are living in Oakland and throughout the East Bay, she said.

City of Refuge actually got its start in Oakland 22 years ago but almost immediately moved to San Francisco where it had remained until this fall. The return to Oakland, where the church opened its doors in September comes at a time when more than half of the roughly 600-member congregation lives in the East Bay, Flunder said.

Advocates from several organizations pointed out that one of the positive impacts of the high San Francisco commercial rents is that nonprofits are bringing critical services closer to people that need them. As the *Express* reported in a recent feature on discrimination against transgender people in the East Bay, City of Refuge was one of three nonprofit organizations that work with this population to relocate from San Francisco to Oakland in 2013.

"We'll continue to do that work, and God knows that work is needed in Oakland," said Flunder. City of Refuge prides itself on being a faith based organization that is inclusive of LGBT people, she said, adding that there's a demand in Oakland for this kind of liberal church community.

Jr AS Lees, executive director of the Volunteer Center of the East Bay, which connects volunteers to nonprofits, said there is increasing recognition that poverty is widespread in the East Bay, even in more suburban areas and that agencies and charities have to look beyond the urban core of San Francisco. That makes relocations to this side of the bay a win-win, she said, considering that nonprofits are always facing pressure to be as efficient as possible with their operating budgets.

"It's really important that you can prove to your funders that you are providing as much direct service as possible," she said, "and that you're also operating in a method that is enhancing your sustainability."

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YEAR IN REVIEW

THE YEAR IN EAST BAY PIZZA

Six new pizzerias offer up their interpretation of the perfect slice.

By Luke Tsai and Thien Pham

It wasn't so long ago when it seemed like the idea that no good pizza existed in the Bay Area was the running refrain of every self-proclaimed food lover in town. Well this might be the year that notion was finally put to rest. In many ways 2013 has been the Year of Pizza in the East Bay, as new restaurants specializing in by-the-slice pizza sprouted up every month.

Here we compare and contrast some of the most notable new pizzerias.

Slicer Pizzeria

4395 Piedmont Ave., Unit A, Oakland, 510-868-5424, SlicerPizzeria.com

Slicer serves about as close to a classic New York City slice as you'll find in the East Bay — it's got the foldable crust, the slick of grease, and just the right proportion of tomato sauce and cheese. But where the pizzeria really shines is in its seasonal Northern California toppings. We loved how a knob of smoky-white burrata wasn't added until after the slice was reheated, adding a cool, refreshing quality. The shoe shop has a casual vibe that's charming despite being slightly tacky: There's an ice chest, plastic flamingos, and a painting of a big ol' Yeti.

Artichoke Basille's Pizza

3590 Dormit Ave., Berkeley, 510-705-1266, ArtichokePizza.com

At Artichoke Basille's, the lone West Coast outpost of a New York-based mini-chain, the only dine-in option is to stand at the counter and the attention to verisimilitude is such that the proprietors seem to have shipped a guy in from the Bronx to harangue/entertain customers with that signature brand of cheesy New York City rudeness. The pizza, on the other hand, isn't the traditional New York style but more akin to something out of *Man v. Food* — calorie bombs with thick, crisp-bottomed crusts designed to stand up to ridiculous amounts of sauce and cream. The artichoke slice was the biggest we sampled, and was topped with enough artichoke cream sauce to knock us into a deep slumber. The square Sicilian slice (pictured on the next page) was only slightly less decadent. Swapping out regular tomato sauce in favor of a classic East Coast vodka sauce? That was a stroke of genius.

The Star on Grand

3425 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-843-7827, TheStarsonGrand.com

Okay, so The Star isn't a slice shop. The restaurant, which specializes in Chicago-style deep-dish pizza, doesn't even sell by the slice, and it's definitely a sit-down establishment, complete with fancy cocktails. But what The Star does sell are six-inch personal deep-dish pizzas, which — if you're a fan of the restaurant's super-chunky tomato sauce and buttery cornmeal-based crust — makes for just about the perfect lunch. You can get the personal pies with the toppings of your choice; we like The Fort (pictured), which is a classic combination of sausage, peppers, and mushrooms. But really, these pizzas are all about the interplay of tomato sauce, melted cheese, and crunchy crust. Everything else is gravy.

Hi-Life Oakland

400 15th St., Oakland, 510-444-4585, HiLifeOakland.com

The sheer size of Hi-Life's slices — as big we had to hold them with two hands — reminded us of the giant slices we used to gorge ourselves on during the shopping-mall excursions of our youth. But the quality of ingredients at Hi-Life is much better. The Uptown eatery takes a "build-your-own" approach to pizza by the slice, which means toppings were piled on just prior to reheating, the downside of this was that the toppings didn't really cohere to the pizza and slid off while we ate. The tomato sauce, on the other hand, was sassy and salty as though designed to make us thirsty for beer. All said, this late-night spot is worth a visit just for its ambience. Blaring surf music playing overhead, a kung-fu movie projected on one wall, and vintage pinball machines upstairs.

Nick's Pizza

5211 Shattuck Ave., Oakland, 510-658-3903, OaklandStylePizza.com

The thing to know about the "Oakland-style" pizza at Nick's is that the crust might be the best in town — a perfect New York/NorCal hybrid, crunchy on the bottom and chewy on top, with enough sourdough tang to keep things interesting. Like at many Bay Area pizza joints, the toppings tend to showcase the season's bounty (kale and persimmons and such), but we favored the simple pepperoni and a Yukon Gold potato slice (pictured on the next page) that recalled the flavors of a loaded baked potato. The restaurant's spare décor would befit even the staunchest purist's ideal of a no-nonsense East Coast slice shop and, best of all, the prices are decidedly unfussy too. At just $2.75 a pop these were the biggest bargain slices among all we sampled.

Silver Pizzeria

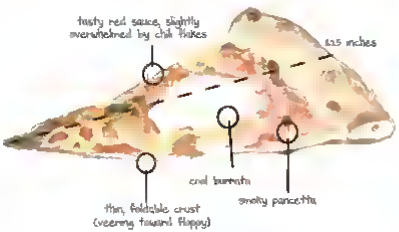
2132 Center St., Berkeley, 510-356-4044, SilverPizzeria.com

If you've ever had pizza at The Cheese Board or Arinnemah, you'll be familiar with the setup at Silver Pizzeria. There are six topping choices (just one vegetarian option of the day) and no tomato sauce in sight — just a slick of savory garlic oil, which is the very best part. The pizzas at Silver — which was opened by three Cheese Board alums — have more or less the same sourdough base as those aforementioned shops, are served on the same basket-style plates, and even come with the same name-slice (the "silver") thrown in as a bonus. The only difference? At this Berkeley spot, there's lots of seating and a lively sports-bar atmosphere. A mariner writer might deem these vegetable-topped sourdough flatbreads rather than "real" pizzas, but when in Berkeley, you may as well do as Berkeleyans do. Embrace this Northern Californian contribution to the pizza canon. ●

Luke Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

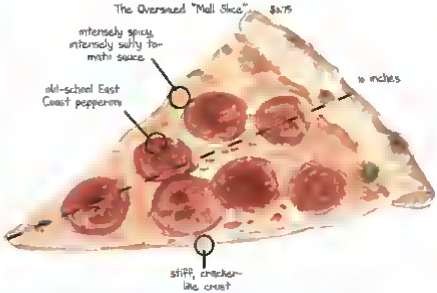
Slicer Pizzeria

The Classic NYC Slice (with CA Toppings) $3.50



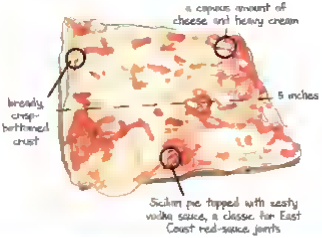
Hi-Life Oakland

The Oversized "Mall Slice" $4.75



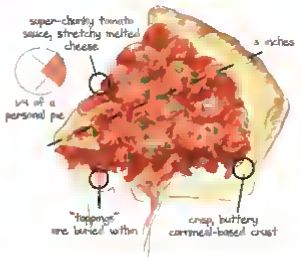
Artichoke Basille's Pizza

The Heart Attack on a Plate $4



The Star on Grand

The Chicago Deep Dish $5



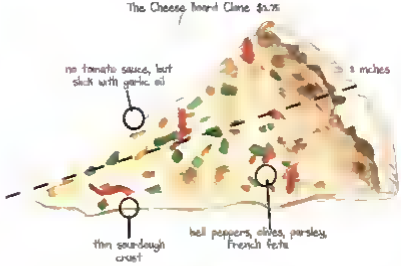
Nick's Pizza

The "Oakland Style" Pizza $2.75



Sliver Pizzeria

The Cheese Insert Clone $2.75



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The scrumptious weed strain Girl Scout Cookies caught fire in 2013 David Downs

YEAR IN REVIEW

THE YEAR IN WEED

Uncle Sam made a historic posture change. Colorado and Washington wrote their pot industry rules, the California Crackdown rolled on, dabs exploded, and the strain Girl Scout Cookies sold out.

By David Downs

Looking back at the biggest cannabis stories in the past twelve months, we are reminded of the apocryphal curse "May you live in interesting times." Oh, indeed.

Uncle Sam Blinks

By far the biggest story of 2013 happened on August 29 when the White House said it would allow Colorado and Washington to proceed with their plans to tax and regulate the sale of pot. According to constitutional scholars, the federal government can't make states engage in the Drug War. Uncle Sam can, however block any efforts to actively contravene federal drug policy — efforts like licensing pot growers and retail stores.

The White House memo, signed by Deputy Attorney General James Cole, acknowledges that letting states regulate the drug is now Uncle Sam's least and opium. To block regulations now would create a free-for-all in states where weed has become legal.

The Cole 2013 Memo also outlined key ongoing priorities for the federal government, like preventing organized crime from using pot legalization as a cover for interstate trafficking.

Historic Senate Session

On September 10 Senate Judiciary Chairman Patrick Leahy chaired historic hearings that included a county sheriff denouncing the war on pot as a failure, and the deputy attorney general saying efforts to regulate the drug could serve federal goals like defunding criminals and keeping the drug away from kids. The hearing also revealed that the United States is working to allow banks to service newly legal pot enterprises, but that a fix for canna-business tax issues won't be coming any time soon.

Supreme Setback

In early May the California Supreme Court dealt a crushing blow to medical cannabis access in California cities and counties that are opposed to medical marijuana. The court ruled that cities and counties can ban medical cannabis collectives operating in retail storefronts called dispensaries.

The case arose out of a ban in Riverside, where activists opened a dispensary and challenged the ban as unconstitutional. After losses in local and appellate courts, lawyers for the Inland Empire dispensary took their case to the Supreme Court, arguing that the Compassionate Use Act of 1996 and the Medical Marijuana Program Act of 2003 prevents cities from banning dispensaries. But the justices weren't convinced that the laws were clear, with Justice Ming Chin stating in oral arguments, "The legislature knows how to say 'Thou shalt not ban.'"

The ruling also appears to allow cities to ban private collectives, and is now being used as part of the legal reasoning behind bans on medical cannabis cultivation proposed in places like Fresno County

Harborside Precedent

In January mayor Oakland dispensary Harborside Health Center set state precedent when its lawyers got a federal judge to block the city's eviction. The judge's argument boiled down to one simple concept: California landlords aren't the US Drug Enforcement Administration. Harborside had a signed lease telling its landlord what it was doing, and its landlord was happy to cash the rent checks. When the DEA threatened the landlord with property forfeiture unless she evicted Harborside she moved to beat the confiscators, which serves 130 000 patients.

But tenants have rights, too. Landlords cannot "screw business relationships when they suddenly prove risky, or to demonstrate cooperation with the government," the judge wrote. Lawyers say dispensaries across California can use the ruling to block eviction and fight the government.

The Crackdown Drags On

Harborside may have tied up US Attorney Melinda Haag in federal appeals court until late 2014, but scores of other dispensaries succumbed to the protracted and widely loathed federal crackdown on medical pot businesses in California. Dispensary owners with clean records like Matthew Davies were sent to prison for years for lawful state activity, even though 65 percent of Californians support well-regulated legal pot.

LA Votes to Clean House

On May 21, voters in the biggest medical pot city in the world voted to limit the number of dispensaries from about 800 to around 135. Measure D passed 62 to 37 percent, and the city attorney is now aggressively moving to shutter all the clubs that don't make the cut. Prices went back up.

Colorado and Washington Set Rules

Colorado and Washington state officials spent much of 2013 writing historic new rules for their legal pot industry, coming up with a licensing system for growers, wholesalers, and retailers. The states set tax rates, clarified tourism rules, picked packaging, and rapidly tried to prepare for legal sales in 2014.

Sativex for Epilepsy

In October, the FDA announced it would allow some doctors to use the pot molecule cannabidiol to treat epilepsy, marking another mainstream endorsement for the alternative therapy. The FDA will allow purified CBD to be used on fifty patients in San Francisco and New York. GW Pharmaceuticals provides the CBD product Epidiolex, which is extracted from pot plants.

The Year of the Cookies

The scrumptious weed strain Girl Scout Cookies caught fire in 2013, winning four Cannabis Cups in one year as praised and rivaling the hype around OG Kush. It's allegedly a San Francisco-bred mix of Durban, Florida Kush, and a secret strain dubbed "F1."

Dabs Explode

In February US fire officials warned first responders about shots blowing themselves up trying to make butane hash oil (BHO) — a type of concentrated marijuana that became dominant on dispensary hash shelves in 2013. Blasting BHO in California remains illegal, though possessing it for medical purposes is not.

Uruguay Legalizes It

On December 12, the South American nation of Uruguay became the first country in modern history to legalize pot when its legislature passed a bill allowing each person to grow six plants. Government-approved grows will provide the drug in pharmacies. ●

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BACK TO THE FUTURE FOR EAST BAY SPORTS

It was the year of the third deck, dumb jacks, and clogged toilets

By Kibby Kleiman

It was like déjà vu all over again. Game 5 of the American League Divisional championship at the Oakland Coliseum. Detroit Tigers versus Oakland Athletics. Elimination game. Exact same way the 2012 season had ended. Tigers threw their ace, Justin Verlander, who had stood on the mound almost a year ago to the day. As a rookie. Celtics. Tigers score first. Been there. We don't score at all. Done that. Seth Smith makes the last out. Second verse same as the first. With one notable difference.

This note we watched it all happen from the third deck.

2013 was the year we got to watch East Bay sports from a forgotten perspective. Since 2006, when A's management closed off the Coliseum's third deck with soul-crushing green tarps, you couldn't buy a seat way above the field. They did this so that they could, um, sell fewer tickets. ...? But ownership reinstated just in time for this year's postseason to restore the Green Monstrosities and allow us paying customers the chance to watch our boys from on high. And yes, we know that back in the day the story was that people used the upper reaches of the ball park to get high, making us wonder if the real reason for the prohibition was that Oakland management didn't want to have to open another sneaker upstairs.

It also has been a year that demands a new set of narratives that moved us out of our sports groove. The Warriors are *Sports Illustrated* cover material, meaning they can no longer be the Little Engine that Keeps Trading Away its Engineer and Caboose. The A's have won the division two years running, meaning that Moneyball isn't just a book or a movie, but rather some sort of mini-series. The Raiders still suck (and ESPN informed their sports reporters this year to stop using the word "sucks"), but is now getting worked without the mystique and flair that characterized its losing in the first decade of the new century (I think ESPN can still use "flair" though).



The owners of the A's realized off the third deck so that they could ...um, sell fewer tickets. ...? Ethan Hoch/Flickr(CC)

Perhaps the biggest thing to wrap our heads around is around Cal sports, which has long had the comfort of accepting mediocrity as part of the price of having to admit a knee-bending crew made up only of Regent's Scholars, entomologists, and fit majors. Cal always had the comfort of knowing that while a 3-8 football team made up of such jocks might not be All Americans on the field of play, they would excel once they left the gridiron and become the masters of industry and academia, powerful enough to lay off graduates from the rest of the Pac 12 in the years ahead inspiring the sassy cheerleaders to boast, *That's all right/That's okay. You're going to work for an someday!* (But still it must have been maddening to get to do performance reviews of employees who graduated from Arizona State, who while still under your benevolent rule could taunt you annually about homecoming beat-downs from days gone by.)

So the lesson Cal took out of this was maybe this scholar-athlete thing had gone too far. Maybe we don't have to really y'know push the scholar thing. What followed was a decade of low-mid bowl dates, each generating less enthusiasm than the one before, each with a lower profile, each drawing fewer fans and interest. (The Holiday Bowl! The Insight Bowl! The Armed Services Bowl! The Poinsettia Bowl!) These are bowls to wrap presents by or to get dressed to go out for holiday parties to, or for when you can't find the remote and this channel is the last thing that was on earlier in the day. Any high school recruit watching the Copper Bowl during Christmas break was either on time-out or house arrest. Cal, having "reduced" the notion of accepting actual academically eligible students, then decided that maybe really good athletes were unnecessary as well.

In 2013 Cal fielded a team that brought this philosophy to its natural logical conclusion. The football team couldn't win or graduate. Among the 72 football teams in the NCAA pantheon of major college programs, Cal had the worst graduation rate of them all. And with a 1-10 record, the worst football team as well. The food is terrible. And such small portions!

But such misery needs company, and the Cal yin has, for decades, relied on the Stanford yang to sing the dirge as one: "But we can't be expected to win football games when we have to watch just a couch-back who tried to apply with a measly 3.8 GPA." Except Stanford started to win. And then continued to win. They win now to a degree that their combos move on to the NFL, and then they win there, too. Stanford wins enough that they get to play Notre Dame. They win enough now that their alumni can buy tickets to fly to Pasadena for New Year's Day to go to the Rose Bowl football championship in advance and get good fares, which they don't need, because they are already wealthy but they *can* because they know they're going back there to play that day well in advance, on network TV in front of the whole nation. And win that game, too. They don't even do the Disneyland thing when they're down in LA, because they get to go so many other nice places with it! (Cal last went to the Rose Bowl in 1959, when there were still "E" tickets at Disneyland.) (Cal last won the Rose Bowl in 1938, when there was no Disneyland.)

So, as they say in sports, you can throw out the record book. Cal not only isn't in shape to play in the Chick-fil-A Bowl, they are going to need a few years of intensive tutoring help to compete for a spot on *Wheel of Fortune*.

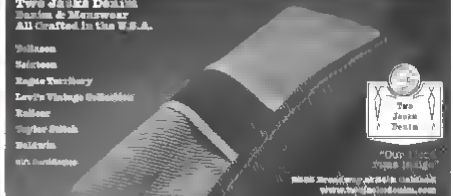
To return to the home of the A's, 2013 wasn't just about getting a bird's-eye view of Bartolo Colón (whom a dim-sighted bird might have once lose a ground ball somewhere between his feet after it bounced off his belly midseason), it was a year that challenged Oakland's other senses. Twice during the year the oil ballyard had to be cleaned and sterilized after the oil pipes weren't up the challenge of people actually using the facilities. A quick tour of Wile'pedia summonizes the state of affairs with three simple subheads when describing the Coliseum: 1) Mould, Dave 2) Traps 3) Sewage. Talk about an interactive fan experience; anybody can go down a corporate slide at San Francisco AT&T Park, with the certitude that what goes up must come down. Imagine their envy of A's fans, whose very flush of a toilet carries with it a slot machine's uncertainty as to the results.

The $10 has a few things that one can count on as the year ahead. Dollar Day at Golden Gate Fields will draw more fans than the rest of the week put together, and the De La Salle High School football team will be better disciplined and throw fewer tantrums than the Oakland Raiders. The Warriors are going to start being a powerhouse at about the same time they get to move to their new home in San Francisco, the A's will contend and the Tigers will somehow be unveiled as whether we move on and if the plumbing doesn't improve underneath the Coliseum there will be a lot more fans wanting to get seats in the third deck come playoff time. ●

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As we mentioned last week, one of the tools for healthy telecommuting is your business's phone service. Ideally everyone in the company will be on the same network – this is true for businesses with multiple offices as well as for businesses with telecommuters. If everyone's phone is on the same network calls within the network are free. It also allows for seamless client call transfers and for the business to present a single phone number to the public.

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By Sharon Campbell

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THE YEAR OF THE MUSIC FESTIVAL

The public's appetite for multi-concept music festivals shows no signs of diminishing.

By Kathleen Richards

Music festivals have been happening since long before half-naked hippies twirled in the grass at Woodstock, yet multi-band all-day affairs are more popular today than ever before. An article last year in *Rolling Stone* noted that festivals now dominate the music industry, with events expanding and selling out faster than usual. Locally, both the Treasure Island Music Festival and Outside Lands had record years, said Allen Scott, executive vice president of Berkeley-based Another Planet Entertainment. Indeed, the global concert industry in general, is on pace to break gross sales records this year, with the top fifty tours selling $1.85 billion in tickets, according to the 2013 mid-year report from concert industry publication, Pollstar.

Today there are festivals for every taste imaginable — musically and otherwise. After all, it's no longer just about the bands onstage. Nowadays, festivalgoers can expect gourmet food and wine, arts and crafts, live art classes, circus performers, clothing boutiques, and stand-up comedy as well. At this year's Treasure Island Music Festival, you could even get a haircut. In fact, it's now entirely possible to attend a music festival and not actually watch any of the music.

Festivals appear to be more about the experience than anything else. "There's something magical about seeing 50,000 with 60, 70,000 other people," said Scott. "It's hard to replicate. Also, the whole social experience ... you have all these individual moments that doesn't have to do with the artist on the stage."

On that note, organizers are always looking to offer something unique. At this year's free Chipotle Cultivate Festival in Golden Gate Park, attendees could watch celebrity chefs prepare meals at on-site kitchens in between performances by bands like The Walkmen and Mayer Hawthorne. Curators of the traveling Station to Station, which comes to the Oakland, aimed to create an "immersive" art and music experience, with installations and film screenings. The one weekend festivals that try to be many things to many people (Outside Lands) and those that sought to capitalize on niche scenes (The Bicycle Music Festival) There were even festivals for people who love Guinness and oysters (Guinness Oyster and Music Festival), for those into Rest Mirkanis and wine (Grapes of Rock Festival) and for those who like indie rock and craft beer (The Bay Brewed)

"People are going to do fun, different experiences," said Jocelyn Kane, executive director of the San Francisco Entertainment Commission. "There are a million entertainment options for people, and everyone's trying to be more noisy than the next — in the PR sense."

The East Bay — and Oakland in particular — also established itself as a bona fide destination for festivals this year, largely in response to the area's increasing cachet as an arts haven. Besides the aforementioned Station to Station, the city also hosted, for the first time Burger Records' annual showcase, Burger Boogaloo, which relocated from San Francisco to Oakland's Mosswood Park. Tamal Trash Fest held shows on both sides of the bay and two new events — the Oakland Music Festival and Oaktown Music Festival — debuted this year to specifically highlight food talent joining Mission Creek Oakland (which hosts shows throughout the month of September). While the Oakland Music Festival, which was held in the Uptown district, suffered from poor turnout largely because of rain, the demand for locally focused events doesn't appear to be lacking.

"The response was so unanimous that people seemed to want something like this — it was kind of shocking," said Sara Sexton of the similarly named but separate Oaktown Music Festival, which also co-hosted, along with Cerri Dunlap, at Awaken Cafe. The event consisted of a battle-of-the-bands-style online contest and culminated in a weekend's worth of performances by local acts in November. (Full disclosure: My band was nominated for an award, but didn't win.) Sexton said that about 150 people showed up for each of the event's two nights, giving the cafe its biggest sales ever. The organizers plan to hold another event next year, and are already plotting ways to expand it — including, possibly holding it in a larger venue and over more days. Alfonso Dominguez, who co-founded the Oakland Music Festival, said he's also plotting another event next year.

So what's driving the popularity of music festivals these days? Kane believes there are several factors at play. For organizers, festivals are, quite simply, a way to get bodies in seats. "Unless you're The Rolling Stones, on one can sell 20 000 tickets," she said. "You have to than bunch all these bands together."

The ballooning interest in electronic dance music has also helped drive festival ticket sales. Although San Francisco's LoveFestival was cancelled last year, plenty of other events — such as Sensation: The Ocean of White, which was held in September at the Oracle Arena, and the upcoming Snowglobe in South Lake Tahoe — fill the void. An entire day of the two-day Treasure Island Festival is devoted to electronic and dance-oriented artists.

Meanwhile, the proliferation of mobile food trucks and pop-up shops has made it possible to increase those kinds of offerings, said Kane. Even brick-and-mortar venue owners are taking cues from festival producers by combining elements of food, art, and shopping into their bookings. For example, Public Works recently held The Bay Brewed, a rock-and-beer fest organized by local music site The Bay Bridged. "You don't go to a museum to see art anymore," said Kane. "You can go to a club."

Forcefully, festivals are huge economic drivers. An economic impact report commissioned by Another Planet Entertainment in 2011 found that its annual Outside Lands festival employed more than 1,000 people and contributed more than $60 million annually to San Francisco's economy. This year's event generated more than $2.2 million in fees for the city's recreation and parks department — an increase of $500,000 from the year prior — and drew more than 200,000 attendees, according to Scott of Another Planet Entertainment.

Not all organizers can afford to pay those kinds of fees, however so many seek permits to hold events in unusual places, said Kane. "There was definitely more events in parking lots than I've ever seen," she said.

In some cases, organizers have been forced to hold outside of urban areas. Kane said that was the reason why promoter Goldenvoice ultimately chose Monterey for the location of its new Fire City Festival this year. "They looked and looked for something in the city," she said. (Goldenvoice did not respond to a request for comment.) That two-day festival boasted big-name headliners like Passion Pit, MGMT and Modest Mouse.

For fans festivals offer the opportunity to see many acts in one setting, including new acts they may have never heard of and "bucket-list" artists who people might not otherwise get a chance to see — and at a reasonable price. Whereas a ticket for The Rolling Stones might cost $500, you can spend a fraction of that amount to see a big headliner — plus seventy other bands. "The bang for your buck is really good," said Scott.

Bands get exposure to more fans than they'd otherwise get to play for — and often get paid better than at brick and mortar venues, too, said Scott. Bay Area festivals such as Noise Pop, Art & Soul, and Outside Lands make concerted efforts to feature local talent, and small festivals like Mission Creek provide up-and-coming acts a platform as well.

The question is: If fans continue to expect festivals to get bigger and more ambitious, can the market sustain the trend? Scott believes we'll hit a saturation point soon. He also noted that of the four other big festivals that started the same year Outside Lands did, in 2008, only Outside Lands survived. He said the key is to grow your event without sacrificing audience experience, which is why Another Planet consciously chose not to expand to the festival to 225,000 attendees — even though the parks department gave organizers the green light to do so.

Now that the country is beginning to emerge from the recession, festival producers — not to mention ticket startups such as Ticketfly, eventbrite, WillCall, and TicketWeb — are eager to capitalize on the rebound. In fact, Another Planet just launched a new annual festival in Los Vegas in October called Life is Beautiful. And the possibility of a festival in the East Bay? He didn't rule it out.

"None of [the festivals] get smaller," said Kane. "They all get bigger — unless they go away."

Kathleen.Richards@EastBayExpress.com

HOW TO HAVE A NEW YEAR'S EVE THAT DOESN'T SUCK

Whether you plan to ring in the New Year with debauchery or humor, there's an event for you.

By Madeleine Key, Zainab Mohammed and Kathleen Richards

thePeople "Rise and Harmonize" NYE Party

If you're looking for a dance party that's soulful, affordable, and going down on this side of the bay, look no further than thePeople a third New Year's Eve party at The New Parish (579 18th St., Oakland). In addition to guest DJs Patrick Wilson, Jayvo Velasco, and Dave Decibels, Oakland singer-songwriter Valerie Troutt will also make an appearance. Troutt, a debut album *The Sound of Pause*, which she released a few months ago, skillfully melds blues, soul, gospel, and jazz. Her rich, powerful voice pours over simple arrangements, caressing them with emotion. On other tracks, she's more energetic, sounding playful and lighthearted as she's joined by funky swinging horns. Troutt, whose music is thoughtful and optimistic, will be the perfect antidote to the debauchery normally associated with this evening. Local artisans will also be on hand selling their wares, and artists will be painting on-site. There will even be a balloon drop. — *M.K.*

9 p.m., $20–$20. TheNewParish.com

Danny Brown

Danny Brown's third album *Old*, is cropping up on many 2013 best of lists — and for good reason. The Detroit native is an outstanding wordsmith: who paints vivid, harrowing stories of life growing up in the hood. That's not particularly unique in the rap game, but Brown, equally, details how deeply uneasy he feels about his growing fame. Best of all, he keeps things weird. *Old* is musically fascinating, featuring elements of trap, electronica, psychedelia, and glitch instead of the J. Dilla samples he was previously known for. He also tosses in animalistic noises like grunts and grunts and futuristic squiggly sounds. As a result, on two tracks on *Old* sound similar. But despite the album's dark themes, Side B is party-friendly as it bursts with drug and sex references and uptempo beats. Brown is notorious for bringing boundless energy to his performances and riling up crowds with his contagious aggression. That makes him an ideal performer with whom to ring in the New Year. Brooklyn hip hop group Flatbush Zombies and local hip-hop producer Traumadlon will open the show. — *M.K.*

9 p.m., $45. MezzanineSF.com



Danny Brown performs at Mezzanine. Josh Wells

OAK NYE 2014: Lungomare at the Waterfront Hotel

Party on the waterfront this New Year's Eve at Jack London Square's new Italian restaurant, Lungomare (1 Broadway, Oakland). Enjoy the view as you dine on the fancy three-course prix-fixe menu (including a trio of gelatos or cannoli for dessert). If you've got other festivities to get to, go to the first seating at 5:30 p.m., or come for the second seating at 8:15 p.m. and stay for the real party. Starting at 9 p.m., DJs Davey D, Nina Sol, Wonway Panthel, and Viktor Duplaix will be spinning in the lounge, and soul singer Nanna Shalimoh's band will be playing in the dining room. One of the most dreaded parts of going out on New Year's Eve is always the trek home after the party, but if you take advantage of the Waterfront Hotel's (10 Washington St.) discount rate for Lungomare party guests, you can just stumble down the block to your room at the end of the night instead of facing the BART crowd. — *Z.M*

5:30 p.m.–8:15 p.m. $50–$65 for dinner, $10–$15 for the party. LungomareOakland.com

Breaking the Chains: 2014 New Year's Eve Benefit Gala

If one of your New Year's resolutions is to give back to your community and help those less fortunate, start 2014 off by heading to the New Year's Eve Benefit Gala at the Hilton Oakland Airport (1 Hegenberger Rd., Oakland). Proceeds from the festivities will go toward Love Never Fails, a local faith-based organization that works to protect East Bay children from sex trafficking. The evening's program will include dinner, a one-woman play by poet Regina Y. Evans, and a dance performance by Aisha Whitmore-Love, Rosan Griffith Aragones, and Natalie Seon. Then enjoy some drinks and dance the night away to the tunes of the Reed Brosnan Band, content in the knowledge that you are "partying with a purpose." — *Z.M*

6:30 p.m., $65–$420. BreakingtheChains4Gale.com

Not Your Normal New Year's Eve

If you're looking to laugh out your 2013 stress without any moral or ethical judgment, then head to the fifth annual Not Your Normal New Year's Eve at Martin's Memorial Club & Hotel (609 Sutter St., San Francisco), where comedians Laura Kilmartin, Brent Weinbach, Kelly Erskine, Casey Lee, Dan St. Paul, and Joe Klocek (plus hosts Jill Bourque and Brian Copeland) will regale you with humor that knows no bounds (as far as we can tell). Whether Kilmartin is discussing the fertility of Latin women or Weinbach is playing his late-night TV advertisement for "Gangster Party Line" (an adults-only chat line for gangsters — as good as it sounds), the featured comics will undoubtedly do their best to cross as many lines as possible (although Klocek apparently passed a minor test by making fun of a Confederate flag at a bar in Redding — a line he regrets crossing). The night will include music from mash-up DJ Lance K, plus a ball loop drop at midnight. — *Kathleen Richards*

8 p.m., $45–$90. NYNNYE.com

NYE with Antwon & Friends

When it first started as a blog five years ago, Wine & Bowties seemed to be all over the place — posting a recipe for mint ginger lemonade one day and a video about the health care debate the next — but eventually the Oakland-based website found its niche as an arts and culture publication and producer of local film screenings, underground parties, and music shows, mostly geared toward twentysomethings. This New Year's Eve, Wine & Bowties is using the occasion to celebrate its five-year anniversary with DJ sets by San Jose rapper Antwon Daghe, who runs the local clothing label CreativeClass Apparel Co., Ma$$ and San Francisco hip-hop artiste Young_SMH. The 21-and-over event will go down at Geoffrey's Inner Circle (410 14th St., Oakland). — *K.R*

9 p.m., $15, $20. WineandBowties.com

New Year's Eve Ball with El Elle

Why celebrating New Year's Eve in the East Bay will be significantly better than doing so in San Francisco: 1) You will not have to endure a claustrophobia-inducing subterranean BART ride next to passengers who appear on the verge of regurgitating their dinners (and all the Jagermeister they just ingested) on your new dress, 2) You will be able to skip a hair-brush that is at least overflowing with obnoxious G-bags while simultaneously saving about $50, 3) El Elle. That's right — the former Lovemakers frontwoman (aka Lisa Light) will bring her sensuous energy and infectious electro-pop tunes to The Night Light (321 Broadway, Oakland) this New Year's Eve, along with electro rappers Gold Chains, grunge-poppers Everyone Is Dirty and special guests. Expect unproven trousseaus, a sweaty dance floor and a champagne toast at midnight. Best of all, the free $ shuttle will operate with extended hours (till 1 a.m.) between Jack London Square and Grand Avenue/27th Street, so you won't even have to stumble down the street. A local win win for everyone. — *K.R.*

9 p.m., $20. TheNightLight.com

Generationals

Generationals is one those bands whose music sounds immediately familiar but not quite pin down able. Perhaps it because of the New Orleans duo's many selfdoing influences sounding first pop new wave indie rock, and electro pop, which are combined to form incredibly palatable songs. Its third album, 2013's *Heza*, sounds as if bandmembers Ted Joyner and Grant Widmer took an extended vacation to the sunny shores of California. Opener "Spooza" nets a jangly surfy guitar melody to an upbeat rhythm, while "Put a Light On" layers a sparkling melody over a handclapping snare beat. Both tunes reflect the duo's ability to create catchy melodies, which is why its music has been used extensively in commercials, an TV, and in movies. Its show on New Year's Eve at Bottom of the Hill (1233 17th St., San Francisco) with The Frail and Nova Alfaro, will be one of the better rock choices of the evening. — *K.R.*

8:30 p.m., $22, $25. BottomoftheHill.com

NEW YEAR'S EVE & DAY EVENTS

ATTRACTIONS

[illegible]

COMEDY

[illegible]

CULINARY & WINE

[illegible]

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ROCK & POP

[illegible]

SOUL, FUNK, R&B, & HIP-HOP

[illegible]

WORLD, LATIN, & REGGAE

[illegible]

SPORTS & OUTDOORS PARTICIPATORY

[illegible]

EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS



Josh Kornbluth — Mark Luckina

Love in the Time of Taxes

Josh Kornbluth's one-man show (and forthcoming film) *Love & Taxes* hopes to spread a pro-tax message

Ten years after monologist Josh Kornbluth debuted his one-man show about his bevy of tax (and romantic) troubles caused by his avoidance of the IRS, he is taking his tax-paying responsibilities much more seriously. "Sometimes it's not so easy, but I actually do it and I'm happy to do it," he said. "I'm even proud of it."

Kornbluth will once again perform his 2003 hit monologue, *Love & Taxes*, in anticipation of the forthcoming feature-length film based on the show which he hopes to release next year. He has several acts in his comic repertoire, but he chose to transform *Love & Taxes* into a movie partly because of the story's message. "It's a pro-tax love story," he said. Despite the fact that the show was written during George W. Bush's presidency, Kornbluth believes it still has a lot of political relevance. "We're coming out of decades of attack on the idea that government can be good," he said. "It's been an anti-tax kind of time. Society has become more and more divided by income and it seems like we're at this really crucial moment. Are we going to come back together?"

Kornbluth will be performing the show at Rhythmix Cultural Works (2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda) on New Year's Eve. While the tale is partly a madcap comedy, it's ultimately a story of personal growth and redemption. When he started working after college, Kornbluth initially dutifully filed his taxes. But someone's suggestion that he try stemming "blew a gasket" in his mind, and for the next seven years he managed to avoid the task. "It was not difficult to figure out how to do it, so I stopped," he said. "And then nothing happened, so I kept not doing it."

But upon finding out that his girlfriend was expecting their child, Kornbluth faced pressure to finally file his taxes. "She wouldn't marry on until I solved my horrible tax problem," he said. "I had a nine-month ticking clock."

Having been raised by parents who were strongly against bureaucracy, Kornbluth struggled with the decision. "As a person who lived very comfortably on the fringes, it was difficult for me to want to enter the system," he said. "It challenged my whole sense of self." However, his desire to form a family forced him to shift his thinking. "My character actually discovers that he has to change his perception of what his role is and who he is," said Kornbluth. "The idea of what *should* and what they make possible, it's his responsibility to be part of that."

Two shows, 7 p.m. ($35) and 10 p.m. ($45). Rhythmix.org
— *Zinnieb Mohammed*

ATTRACTIONS

Cafe Corritoso's Fiesta de Fabiana Show featuring flamenco performers, sing-along of beloved (Christmas carols in Spanish), holiday treats, and a selection of vintage and new flamenco dresses and accessories for sale. Sun., Dec. 29, 7 p.m., $15/$15. Rhythmix Cultural Works, 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda. 510-886-6266. Rhythmix.org.

Bubbles U released by Insomniac, Kasumichi Omosa's Scandinavian-style art fighting installation with a video feature. 10 stops. Sat., Dec. 28, 1 p.m.–1 a.m., $40. Chabot-Levy Pavilion, 1414 Omosa Way South, Richmond. Comeasy.com.

Holiday Open House Tour the historic Gothic-style home, which will be decorated for the holidays. Elder and children will be served. Sat., Dec. 28, 1–3 p.m., $10. Gehan-Gray House, 1445 29th Ave., Oakland. GehanGrayHouse.info.

Luminous Lower Bellevue Features, seaside holiday songs played to tower visual effects. Saturdays, Sundays, 1:15 p.m. Continues through Dec. 29. $10–$22. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373, ChabotSpace.org.

Nightlines season Shakes The season's red-hued comic expert explains (2006's) path and what made this comet so special. Bring binoculars, laptops, and warm clothes. Fri., Dec. 27, 8–11 p.m., $10. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373, ChabotSpace.org.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS, & FIESTAS

Breaking The Chains. 2014 Dec. Year's Eve Kick-Off Gala Breaking Habit's one-act women play by Regina V. Evans, and a music presentation. With a performance by the Reed Fowler Band. Proceeds benefit Love Never Fails, Inc. Sun., 31, 8:30 p.m. $65–$400. Hilton Oakland Airport, Perks 1 Hegenberger Rd., Oakland. 510-382-6666.

ERA New Year's Eve 2014 Fiesta Party A celebration of peace with DJ Kenneth. Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., $20. Era Art Bar and Lounge, 18 Grand Ave., Oakland. EraLounge.com.

Family Feast the Bear Year's Eve Party Bear Year's celebration with a dinner, band as well as prizes, dance games, and seaside games. With three-course for meat American wine and with sparkling color provided. Tue., Dec. 31, 8 p.m.–12:30 a.m. $25. Fireside Pub, 3128 Fillmore St., San Francisco. Firesidesf.com.

New Year's Eve Bash With Commodore Inns the West Edge Opera Company, dinner, main dish, and a performance by jazz group Shades of Gray. Tue., Dec. 31, 8:21 p.m., $150. Berkeley Center for the Arts, 1931 Allston Way, Berkeley. BerkeleyCenterForTheArts.org.

New Year's Eve Classic Party at Expand Dance party with Ray Area DJ Jean Baby. Club shows including commodities, dance, and fashion will be viewed throughout the night. Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., $40. Expand, 2600 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-926-6200. ExpandBerkeley.com.

New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball With live music by the Undercovers and a champagne toast at midnight. Tue., Dec. 31, 8 p.m., $15 in advance, $20 at the door. El Patio Ballroom Company and Alphonse, 2201 Shattuck Pl., Suite 1, Fremont. 925-413-4753. ElPatio.com

New Year's Eve Party Performance Featuring a three-course 3 year. See music from Eddy Nevis and the Pachinanna Band, and dancing. Tue., Dec. 31, 8 p.m. $150–$175. Pets three-course. 2800 Powell St., San Francisco. 415-986-1018, PetsInternational.com

OAK NYE 2014: Langaman at the Waterfront Affair Featuring a three-course pub style menu, followed by a party in

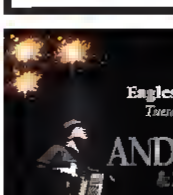


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PICKS

A Roaring Good Time

New Year's resolutions are generally made in a hoopy haze and then promptly broken the first week of January, but the folks over at Baseball Universe (2556 Madison St., Oakland) are trying to hold us accountable by inviting people to put their intentions in writing at their New Year's Eve party. The gallery's walls will be covered with blank canvasses for you to scribble down or illustrate your grand plans to confess your love to your secret crush, start taking a compost bin, or stop Facebooking it's work. If you've given up on resolutions, you can always sketch a doodle or just spread your name. After you've been emboldened by your public goal-making, you can toss back Asian champagne as you dance your way into the New Year to tunes spun by Dave the Fan. — *Zainab Mohammed*

Tuesday, Dec. 31, 7 p.m.,



Champions of Magic

donations accepted, BaseballUniverse.com

Champions of Magic Live

Hanukkah rituals that turn into birds and golf balls that seemingly disappear into thin air may bring to mind G.O.B. Bluth's bag of holiday tricks in *Arrested Development*, but the magicians of the Champions of Magic Live tour will successfully perform such sleights of hand at the John Morgan Theater (2640 College Ave., Berkeley) this weekend. We bin the five award-winning magicians — Jade, Jason Andrews, Mark Kornhauser, Dana Daniels, and Christopher Hart — saw themselves in half and make use of props like "disembodied" hands, balloons, and parrots, in their part magic, part-comedy family-friendly performances. Fight off the post-Christmas doldrums, suspend your disbelief, and prepare to be enchanted. — *Z.M.*

Saturday, Dec. 28 (2 & 8 p.m.) and Sunday, Dec. 29 (2 p.m.). $20–$60. ChampionsofMagicLive.com

the lounge with DJ Joey D, Nov Sol, Woody Fresh and Baba Dapolk and Pedro Sheltman's band Tue. Jan. 31, 5:30 p.m. $60–$85. Lungomare, 1 Steamer, Emeryville, 510-444-2175, Lungomarerestaurant.com

Fairmont Encore New Year's Eve Party $434 Enjoy five hours of food and unlimited champagne toast. With a six-hour party starts with fun and dancing. Sat. Dec. 31 7:30 p.m. 1 a.m. $200–$315. Pacific Fairmont Masonic, 1500 Sutter St. Alameda, 415-709-1349. PacificPenthouse.sg

Night 2014: A Roaring New & Yr Eve New Year's Eve With two casinos and an entertainment gallery featuring blackjack, craps, and roulette tables. Tue. Dec. 31 9 p.m. $40. Parsons Marriott City Center 1001 Broadway, Oakland 510-451-4900.

Roaring 20's New Year's Eve Party Ring in Tomorrow's New Year's Eve party with fine music, a Prosecco bar, champagne toast, and food. Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., $100. Fairmont Hotel, Gold & Spa 41 Tunnel Rd. Berkeley 510-843-3000. cocktail-attire.com

Roaring Soul Viva New Year's Eve party where attendees are invited to ring in the season with their musicians. Tue., Dec. 31, 7 p.m.-3 a.m. Fitzwell Madison Bakery 2330 Madison St Oakland. BrooklynRomance.com.

Rockin' NYE Performances by Rockabilly musician Billy London. With Brer Rabbits and a champagne toast at midnight. Tue. Dec. 31, 9 p.m., $60 Forbidden Island, 2304 Clinton Ave. Alameda, 510-263-0033 Forbidden-IslandAlameda.com.

1205 Second New Year's Eve Hoot With live music, cabaret fashion multi-tiers, and hors' hors'ouvres. Performances by the Swingin' Blue Notes and 5 others. Jump. Tue. Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m. USS Hornet Museum 707 W. Hornet Ave., Alameda, 510-521-8448, USS-Hornet.org.

HEALTH, WELLNESS, & SEXUALITY

New Year's Day De-Clutter and Resource Set intentions for the new year with yoga, dynamic movement, and flexible. Sun Wed Jan 1, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. $15. Ohlhausen Yoga, 5408 College Ave Oakland 510-547-8642, namastehouse-ridge.com.

New Year's Hoot, New Health yoga toast and chat at 1st go at 2013 and step into the new year. Wed., Jan. 1 11 a.m.-1 p.m. $15-$20 YogaLove, 1698 7th Street, Oakland, 415-436-9296, yogaloveoakland.com/

Opening Up the Door Free New yoga practice, fun ritual and Mudra (loving kindness) meditation. Wed. Jan. 1 11 a.m.-1 p.m. 1328 Nimitz Grand Lake 3029 Lakeshore Ave. Oakland. 510-922-9642 Nourishedinbalance.com.

Outlaw Zumba, dance and other exercises led by an instructor with a whole. Sat. Dec. 29, 2:15-3:15 p.m., Sun. Jan. 6 2:15-3:15 p.m., Sat., Jan 13, 2:15-3:15 p.m. Dalton Public Library, Main Ave. Branch, 1521 Main Ave. Oakland, 510-615-5812, OaklandLibrary.org.

Parkland Daughter Mothers Workshops Add paint, glaze and other crafty materials at the plant to unwind sculptures. Sundays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Continues through Dec 29 Pittsfield Space & Science Center, 2168 Bancroft Blvd., Pleasant 510-336-7375, PittsfieldSpace.org.

Learn String Figures Learn to make cool string figures and patterns using maglie sticks. Tue., Dec. 31 4-4:45 p.m. Berkeley Public Library South Branch, 1901 Dohlen St. Berkeley, 510-981-6260

New Year's Eve Day Party Count down to the new year in different time zones displayed on Ellsworth's Sphere. Plus, sparkling cider toasts, noisemakers, and a balloon drop. Tue., Dec. 31, 12-2 p.m. Lawrence Hall of Science, 1 Centennial Dr. Berkeley 510-642-5132 Lawrence-HallofScience.org.

Reading and Animation Storytime Special holiday story time with crafting afterwards. Thu., Dec. 26 2-3 p.m. Berkeley Public Library West Pittsfield 1125 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-981-6260, www.berkeleypublic.org.org

Wacky Pittsfield Wednesday Special exercises until Sandy Jet. Through Jan. 6 2014 Playland-Not-at-the-Beach 10979 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, Playland-Not-at-the-Beach.org.

Pittsfield Stayed Camp Jr. Camp for budding ringlings aged five to eight years old featuring dress-up magic, demonstrations, build-your-own tricks and a special magic show Fri., Dec. 27 10 a.m.-noon, also Tue., Dec. 30, 10 a.m.-noon $40 Playland-Not-at-the-Beach 10979 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, Playland-Not-at-the-Beach.org.

LGBT

New Year's Eve at Eight Street Station Cafe' Dinner and dinner party with Spinderella and Van Ass Room. Special menu, music at 9 p.m. Tue., Dec 31, 7:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. $20-$30. High Street Station Cafe' 1305 High St., Alameda, 510-995-8868, HighStreetStation.com.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS PARTICIPATORY

Night Hike Explore the Ohlhausen from twilight to moonlight on a one or five mile hike to Ohlhausen Peak. After the hike, stay and view the new night sky around the center's telescopes (weather permitting) or join the Telescope Making Workshop. Fri., Dec. 27, 4:30-6 p.m. $10. Pittsfield Space & Science Center, 15000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland 510-336-7373, PittsfieldSpace.org.

Stargazing into the New Year Community walk hosted by the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association through the neighborhoods of Berkeley and Kensington. Meet at the southeastern corner of The Alameda and Coventry Rd. Wed Jan 1, 1 p.m.

SPORTS-SPECTATOR

Cal Men's Basketball vs. Stanford Cal Men's Basketball hosts Fortnet at Haas Pavilion. Sat. Dec. 28, 3 p.m. Haas Pavilion, UC Berkeley Berkeley 510-642-0600. Ohlhausen.com/FacilitiesHaas-Pavilion.html

Cal Women's Basketball vs. Lafayette Cal Women's Basketball hosts Lafayette at Haas Pavilion Sun., Dec. 29, 2 p.m. Haas Pavilion UC Berkeley Berkeley 510-642-0600, Ohlhausen.com/FacilitiesHaas-Pavilion.html.

Oakland Raiders vs. Dahlen Broncos The Broncos Pittsfield play the Dahlen Dahlen at the Ohlhausen Sun. Dec. 29 1:25 p.m. $35-$1181 2 mi Ohlhausen, 7000 Ohlhausen Way, Oakland, 510-569-2121, Ohlhausen.com

Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, 6300 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES



Mayumi Hamanaka's "Invisible Lands 2 – Group Shot."

Invisible Lands

In the show *Temporal Void*, Mayumi Hamanaka and Brooks Salzwedel construct deep visual spaces that examine memory and nature

Mayumi Hamanaka's most recent project, *Invisible Lands*, as a window into a world of memories that don't belong to her. Working with photographs that were found in the rubble of the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami in East Japan, she layers them with her own abstract meaning, reimagining the past in a personal way.

In her artist's statement Hamanaka articulates an understanding of memories as artifacts in a kind of archeological site that collectively constitute a poetic biography. Not only the owner of the artifacts can make this sense a meaningful way. After the disaster in Japan, Hamanaka was provoked by the idea of so many inanimate markers being left without context among the remains. After looking at about 1,000 photos from the Lost & Found Project, whose participants worked to exhibit lost photographs they uncovered after the disaster, Hamanaka chose a handful to artistically re-contextualize.

Her re-authored versions are now on view at Johansson Projects (2320 Telegraph Ave, Oakland) as part of the show *Temporal Void*. In reinterpreting the photographs, Hamanaka enlarged them and added her own texture by precisely applying layers of intricate paper cutouts. Built up, they form a mostly white surface reminiscent of a 3D topographical map that logs the figures presented. It appears almost as if the residue of the traumatic wrecking remains caked on the photographs, distorting their significance. The result is a visual landscape that simultaneously invites you in and denies you entry — like something that you vaguely remember, yet can't quite recall.

Alongside Hamanaka's work are landscapes by Brooks Salzwedel that offer a similarly foggy feel, but with a sleek veneer. Salzwedel constructs raw, auric environments by layering graphite and charcoal drawings on Mylar to create a incredible depth of field. After building a soft, misty atmosphere, he seals it all together with a shiny coat of resin — like putting it behind a window.

Salzwedel contemplates the notion of "natural" by depicting intersections of natural and industrial grandeur. Almost all of his displayed works feature snow-capped mountains, offering a dreamy element of uncleanness. In "Bones of the Mountain," Salzwedel depicts a snowy mountain range washed in gentle hues of pink and blue spotted with a broken, monolithic human skeleton. The composition ultimately contrasts the permanence of mountains with fleeting human mortality.

Both Hamanaka and Salzwedel's works seem concerned with the way in which certain realms of existence can display such resilience despite being so fragile. *Temporal Void* draws the viewer into the unfamiliar yet spectacular visual space of that emotional contradiction.

Through January 4th at Johansson Projects. 510-444-9140 or JohanssonProjects.com

— Sarah Burke

ART GALLERIES

1947 Center Street Lobby Gallery *The Second Line* of Epoch: Exhibit of photographs by Kerry Trautman of the scene during the Mardi Gras parade in protest Pro-B during an environmental spill in 2010-2011. Through Jan. 31, 2014. 1947 Center St., Berkeley. 510-981-7200.

Alameda Island Gallery *Any-Furniture: Envisioning the Year 2175* and Joseph Hobbs named by named LaGrave in studio items that Blades, the year 2070 and beyond. Featured items named Daniel Spoerri, Robert Rauschenberg, Tadanori Yokoo and William Blades. Through end 31. 1275 12th St., Oakland. 510-304-4800. On Alameda Ca. 16.

Ironwood Gallery *Ironwood Gallery* Exhibit of works by Jan Maldonado. Through Feb. 15, 2014. 2961 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-845-4564. AcesGallery.com.

An Dependent Gallery *The Secret Lives of Objects: Framed Personal Spirits* Exhibit of photographs by Gary Trautt of the spirits visiting the Berkeley Lagoon in Acapulco. Photographs on environmental spirit in 2010-2011. Through Jan. 31, 2014 from 2000: University Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-3030, AnDependent.com

Featuring Art's annual *Artsy Artists' Booker Memorial* Holiday reception on Saturday Dec. 28 from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Through Jan 11, 2014 this 1275 Ironwood St. (in Glen Park Park), Berkeley. 510-644-8885, BookerArtsVenue.org.

Berkeley Public Library Civitas Studio, Bayter Project *Architectures of the Landscapes* Exhibition of student thirteen's with photographs of the Himalayas and surrounding people. Through Jan. 2, 2014. *Traditional Art of Asian Textile, Peoples & Arts* Exhibit of Asian artifacts and items from religious practices. Related items myths and ancient skills on display in the large window and glass cases in the lobby. Through end 28, 2000 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPub-lic.org.

Rodeney YUCA, *Portrait 3 of the Sisters* Exhibit Affair of Photographs, paintings and sculptures painted by Joanne Katz. Through Jan. 3, 2014. 2000 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-848-8370, YUCA.org.

Blackbird Oakland, Gallery Affair Exhibit Bright Subject by Gallery of Photographs of Affair landscapes. Featured works by Sarah Moser, Lama Stone, and Lauren Bright Subject. Through Dec. 28, Inc. 2330 Roseling Oakland, Lalapress.com.

The Other Side, Landles Print Art featuring Exhibit of original hand-printed topographic engravings by The Bancroft Library, a short of forty Oakland-published libraries, 1933 and 1943. Related by Ruth Asawa. Co-exhibit by Ruth Asawa. Through Feb. 5, 2014 and 1580 Hamilton., Berkeley. 510-525-2582, BrandonReyes-sents.com

Chronicle Island Contemporary *Honey Pond Exhibit* featured by Randy Phillips featuring the work of three artists from three generations. Carol Summit, Marion Blomberg, and Richard Hallwell. Through Jan. 30, 2014. 460 22nd St., Oakland. 510-2482-484, GaskellGallery.com.

City Lights Gallery *Illustrations & Artists, Inc.* of the Berkeley Jungle Oakland. Through Jan. 11, 2014. 300 Johnson St., Oakland. 917-387-9987. Applesgal-lery.com.

Oakland, Gossip Art Center *Real Personal Future* Holiday Exhibit featuring original artwork from more than one hundred artists. Through Jan. 31, 2014. 360 24th St., Oakland. 510-8452-2222, GossipArtCenter.org.

Studio Gallery Center *Psychosocial Amplify Holiday Studio* An exhibition highlighting the hand-drawn Oakland photographer Richard Hallwell, the landscape Oakland. Kate Getty HARE, Rooker's on the economic and political issues that have made the exhibition landscapes of the Mississippi River's "Human Amp." Through Jan. 29, 2014. 2195 Alcatraz Way, Berkeley. 510-908-0018. StudioCenter.org.

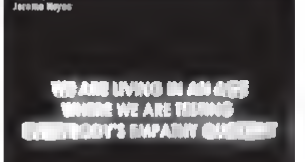
Impressions Gallery *The Road To Part 01* Oakland Group show featuring paintings, sculptures, studies, and photography. Through Jan. 12, 2014. 2015 Berry Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4190. SupersonicsGallery.org.

FLAX Exhibit Books and Art Gallery.

PICKS

Occupations: Art Takes Up Space

It is not until a subject is no longer something extraordinary that we recognize the blandness of our surroundings. The public, site-specific work installation *Occupations: Art Takes Up Space* calls attention to the capabilities of urban spaces to function as exhibition venues, urging us to rethink our physical and psychological relationship to public environments. Curated by Antarctica Vikram in partnership with BLOCK Gallery, the group exhibit explores the usefulness of discarded items on 5th Street between Broadway and Washington Street as gallery walls to feature works by established artists Freddy Chandra, Allan de Souza, Desiree Holman, Rain Muhlmeyer, Jerome Reyes, and Jose Carlos Teixeira. Video installations are presented



onto the windows from inside, such that the walls of nearby buildings seem to come alive as you walk the block. To accompany your tour, there is a free podcast available online that contextualizes the pieces and artists. Although none of the works is extraordinary as a stand-alone installment, they collectively offer an imaginative experience that is worth taking a detour through town to engage in. *— Sarah Burke*

Friday and Saturday: 5:30-8:30 p.m., through January 4. Block-Gallery.com

Solo Art Gallery *Gallery Quiet/Solo* Featured Exhibition Juried Memorial of prints, photographs, paintings and large videos, mixed-media works, and sculptures. Through Jan. 26, 2014. 2990 San Pablo Ave., featuring 510-842-2900, Kala.org.

Ferrarelli, *Color for Keeps* A Anniversary of photographs from Dylan by Billy West. Through Dec. 28. 480 23rd St., Oakland, 510-226-7736. Jonesartstudio.com.

Latham Square *Latham Memorial* Featured Director first named pieces documents by the 1st memorial made the twentieth anniversary of Latham Memorial Fountain. Through Jan. 1, 2014. Telegraph Ave. at Memorial.

Letterbox gallery, *Suggested & Gifts* Exhibition featuring the paintings of Grace Hollis and Annemie Lane. Through end Jan 31st. 1525 Webster St., featuring 510-499-1288, LetterBox.com.

MAKAL, *Authoring* Exhibition Three-person group show featuring items named by Robert Gober, Kim Fong Wah and Lauren Yip. Through Jan. 2, 2014. 580 47th St., Oakland.

Mason Gallery Wayne Armstrong and **Ilse Pappenne** Exhibition of new paintings by the two artists. Through Dec. 28, 473 25th St., featuring 510-282-2305, MasonGallery.com.

Martha, J. Johnson *Jelly Johnson* Exhibition of the work of Lindsay Sanderson featuring projects in Bowler media including Mirror Box, wall-a photography, and comedy. Through Jan. 28, 2014, free. 1200 56th St., Berkeley, 510-558-6980, MartinJohnson.org.

Mendocino Art Gallery *Mendocino Contemporary Collaborative Group* exhibition of small items featuring a range of styles and items. Through Jan. 4, 2014. 415 25th St., Oakland, 510-444-7185, MemoryWorkly.com.

Mercantile Gallery *Layered Landscapes* Solo exhibition featuring Bethel Brown Seagull-Jean Blades. Through Jan. 12, 2014. free. 1904 Mercantile Blvd., Oakland. 510-338-4286.

Oakland, Just Over Jumpin Tattoo and Tattoo 13 Group exhibition featuring the artists of Oakland's tattoo shops, Jumpin Tattoo and Tattoo 13. Through end 30. 357 14th St., Oakland. 510-465-2770, OaklandArtCrawl.com.

Oakland's Creativity Center named *Lights: Re-Balanced* and **Mary Heywood** Exhibit of new paintings by the two artists. Through Jan. 19, 2014. 447 25th St., Oakland. 510-839-6826, Yahoo.edu.org.

Parkman Rowing, *Urban Movement of work by artist and photographer* Bonnie Gilcrest. Through Dec. 29. 3050 Grand Ave., Oakland. (510) 609-1916, www.Panamanfinancial.com.

PRINTZ Oakland Exhibition of photography Henry Bowker and his collaboration of Oakland. through Jan. 11, 2014. 473 25th St., Oakland, 510-907-0448 PRINTZGalleryOakland.com.

Pro Arts Gallery *Where to Focus Pages 7 Juried Section* 2014 Group exhibition Inaugurating Pro Arts' 40th Anniversary Memorial series. Through Jan. 10, 2014, 2656 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, featuring 510-763-4361, ProArtsGallery.org.

Rotate Gallery & Gallery *World Around Exhibit* An interactive bonsai and painting exhibition in addition by three Rooker Artist' bonsai Robert is basic Through Feb. 8, 2014. end of 2233 Livermore Ave. Alameda, 510-868-1106, SWIMAlameda.org.

Treasure combined **Bay Area,** *Permutations* Kalb exhibition featuring the artists of Oakland-based bonsai Oakland. bonsai Through Jan. 2014. 2000 East 4th 2 Halls St., Emeryville, 510-809-3318, Solidspace-3dcal.com.

Studios, Galleries Gallery Robert and **Wesley Anderson of** false ceramic work by the two artists. through end 28. 473 25th St., Oakland

Spa Pablo Art Gallery *Jessica Quilts Bridge Student Art Show* Exhibit featuring artworks shamed drawings, paintings and digital prints by students. Art Bloom, Sydney Bates Vanessa Nunez Rebekah Gaeber Matthew Percival-Lane and Julia Whelan. Through Jan. 12 2014, 13601 San Pablo Ave., San Pablo 510-882-8873 ... San-Pablo.ca.us.

SLATE contemporary *Elise Bartlett* and **Renee Bartlett's** Exhibit featuring Johnson sculptures by Renee Bartlett and nature-based site and comedy by Elise Norris. Through Jan. 25 2014. 473 25th St., featuring 510-285-6650 SlateArtAndDesign.com.

Stephens Hall, *Imaginative Paintings by Betty A. Tatum* Exhibition of the paintings of three Hill A. Tatum, who incorporate calligraphy, figure illustrated Oakland-painting into his work. Through Jan. 3, 2014. DC Holloway Berkeley 510-843-8600 Berkeley.edu

Oakland, rare Artisans. *Items Up Stitch* At The third Roberts by the 2011 Art Gang in the San Francisco Bonsai. Through Yana Lehr, Yard Mayer, and Joanna Jaskiewicz Through Jan. 3, 2014, and 2979 Oakland Way Berkeley, Bobbinsand-o-Artmovie.org.

Thousandcubes Gallery, *Conventions* Exhibition of work by Pronoi Sonic Buried by Cameron Eden and Ruth Bandes. Through Jan. 18, 2014. 770 West Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-812-3128 Thousandcubes-Gallery.com

Berkeley, Contemporary Amy Kaufman The Bay Area artist's eighth solo Memorial Through Jan. 11, 2014. 2981 Center Ave., Berkeley 510-647-1214 TheWallman.com

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THEATER & DANCE

COMEDY

Brawny Coast Comedy An evening of standup comedy Oakland, cutting-edge this up-and-coming stomachers. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. $5. The Lighthouse Saloon, 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. LighthouseSaloon.com.

The Big Fat Year End Kick-Off Comedy show with Wil Durst, Debi Hunt, Johnny Steele, Michael Sauser, Matt Maggiani, and Alfie Casas. Mon., Dec. 30, 8 p.m. $20.30 in advance, $22.30 at the door. Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 2020 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-548-1761, TheFreight.org.

Mitch Connelly Explains 2013 Featuring Rickey Smiley, Tony Roberts, and special guests. Tue., Dec. 31, 10 p.m. $49.75–$69.75. Paramount Theater, 2025 Broadway, Oakland, ParamountTheater.com.

Chuckleheart Comedy Night A comedy variety show hosted by Elaine and Alan. Fridays, 8 p.m. $10. Mist Cafe, 3586 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland, 818-456-6000.

The Two Dollar Brown Thirty New Year's Eve Comedy Show Featuring Natasha Muse (San Francisco), comedy Dap Poochikian, Oakland Bentley (Pasadena, San Francisco Improvisers), Kate Willett (Oakland, Pralines), Dan Mike Spiegelman (one of the Laynes' Comedy Night) Sun., Dec. 31, 7:30–8:30 p.m. $25. The Layne, 2577 Shattuck Av., Oakland, 510-814-3577, OaklandLaynes.com.

Orange Lucia The comedians from the self-produced The Orange Lucia Show perform live standup, comedy sketches Sat., Dec. 28, 8 p.m., $42.50–$99.50. Paramount Theater, 2025 Broadway, Oakland, ParamountTheater.com.

Laugh & Drink New Year's Eve Comedy show performed by Josh Kornbluth. With comedian host at midnight. Tue., Dec. 31, 7 p.m. $35–$45. Rhythm & Culture Lounge, 2513 Shattuck Ave., Alameda, 510-845-7400, RhythmAndCulture.com.

Michael's Mouth: Entertainment Comedy Show Featuring Emma Mims, Lucy Bobbins, Bruce, Rocky Oakland, Norman Hassard, and Michael B. Rooney. Sat., Dec. 28, 8:30–10 p.m. $15 in advance, $20 at the door. Englander Sports Pub, 301 Ferrell St., San Lorenzo. 510-317-3571, EnglanderPub.com.

Bruce Bruce Kinnon Bam Bam's Bye Bye Featuring eight of today's best stand-up comics, Bye Bruce. Bam's room full of hilarious. Entertainment from comedians Laurie Kilmartin, Beau Kevin Jones, Kaleo Erskine, Casey Lee, Dan St. Paul, Bill Bonds, Bam Bruce, Jill Bourque, and Brian Copeland. Tue., Dec. 31, 8 p.m. $45. $80. Oakland Memorial Club, 4 Hegenberger, 2800 Fruitvale, Oakland, 415-673-8872, Madrone-Ballroom.com.

Open Mic Comedy It quickly open mic for the comedians. Run up-and-coming comedians Sundays, 8 p.m. non-profit minimum. Continental Club, 1600 12th St., Oakland, 510-473-8815. Facebook.com/CarolCastroNetwork.

Ron Shorten, Host Split Bay Area comedian Gina Gold presenting a free monthly comedy series. Fourth Oakland, of every month, 7:30 p.m. $10. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568, Lapena.org.

The Scotchhead Oldies by Brian Sedanis The New-fangled tradition continues for his 12th year in the of Broadway Brian David Gilmore-Lounging Soldiers' true story by the stage. Thru. Dec. 29, 8 p.m., Fri., Dec. 27 8 p.m., Sat., Dec. 28 8 p.m., Sun. Dec. 29, 2 & 7 p.m. $20–$30. The Fumbo Theatre, 215 Jackson St., San Francisco, (415) 788-3400 Eventbrite.com.

Cloaking Comedy Improvised comedy night hosted by Cloaking Thursdays, 8:30–9 p.m. free. Shots Club, 2520 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-8130, ShotsClubOakland.com.

DANCE-PERFORMANCE

Stardust and Hughes Mary Armentrout's site-specific performance project dealing with change loss and nostalgia. Fight Brown in January 2014 month, TBA. Wed. Jan. 1 $20. The Milk Bar, 951 81st Ave., Oakland.

San Francisco Ballet Presents Nutcracker Set in San Francisco with an international cast of world-class. Oakland Through Dec. 29. $20–$175. War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco. 415-621-6600, SFOpera.com.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

Champions of Magic Five magicians—Christopher Hart, Jason Andrews, Jade, Dana Daniels, Ben Mark Kornhauser—perform their mesmerizing acts, using live animals, insane comedy. Dan and more interaction. Sat., Dec. 28, 7:30 p.m., Sun., Dec. 29, 2 p.m., $17–$60. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave. comedy. 510-845-8849, JuliaMorgan.org.

Edward Gant's Amazing Feats of Loneliness Master Gant and his troupe of traveling performers lead the audience into the surreal, Edwardian world of top hats, tension-filled puppets, and flash powder. Through Jan. 12. 2014. $15–$35. Aurora Stage, 1340 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-6500, StageRaptors.org.

The Hobbit, or Where and Back Set in Vienna in 1938. Due to London during the Blitzkrieg, the play tells the true story of Lise Lise, a young English musician whose dreams are interrupted by the Nazi regime. Through Jan 5. 2014. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2015 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-0949, BerkeleyRep.org.

Tell It On Oakland, Storytelling, solo performance. Set his music, with a rotating cast of performers. Last Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m., $15–$15. The Marsh Arts month. 2120 Allston Way, namely. 500 704-8294. TheMarsh.org.

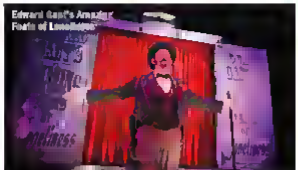
Dreams & Fears! The Say Arts. premiere of his play based set on Berkeley Bus Tom Cornwell about forbidden Bruce Bus grand mansion. Bruce's mansion. Starring Shane Rice, written by Gail Bruce and Anna Maria Murphy. Through Jan 18 2014. Bruce Theater, 2107 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-548-1761, BerkeleyPlay.org.

PICKS

reveries and elegies

Anyone lucky enough to catch Mary Armentrout's reveries and elegies last season knows what a master she is at moving video, spoken word, vocals, doorways, dusk, birthday cakes, and movement into riveting performances. Luckily for those who missed it, she will reinvent reveries in her space at the Milkbar (851 81st Ave., #225, Oakland) in the Sunshine Biscuit Factory every Saturday and Sunday in January. But even if you've seen reveries, you haven't seen this one — an exploration of life's fragmentary, impressionistic nature, the piece changes every time Armentrout performs it, and adapts to each of the many spaces it has occupied. In any configuration, it's performance art at its most intelligent, humorous, engaging, and beautiful. Performances are timed with dusk, so don't be late or you'll miss the magic hour. And dress warmly: as the space is unheated. Seating is limited to 25 people each night, and tickets are available in advance only. — *Claudia Bauer*

Saturdays and Sundays,



Pak Han

Jan. 4–5, 11–12, 18–19, and 25–26, 4:15 p.m. (start time changes weekly; check website). $20. 510-289-5188 or MaryArmentrout.Dance-Theater.com.

Edward Gant's Amazing Feats of Loneliness

On its surface, *Edward Gant's Amazing Feats of Loneliness* is about a troupe of traveling, Edwardian-circus-esque performers recounting preposterous tales of heartache out of the back of a truck. Underneath the sheen of improbability and performativity, however, he lay questions about life, humanity, storytelling, and, perhaps most importantly, the point of theater.

The tales, or feats of loneliness as it were, become more elaborate and bizarre as the show wears on — a young Pakistani girl's quest to transform into pearls when popped, a soldier undergoes brain surgery in a cave in Nepal in order to forget his lost love, a forgotten teddy bear's only wish is for imaginary tea and cake, etc. — until they reach a point that's so absurd a company member leaves the play forcibly in a huff, refusing to participate in the spectacle any longer. It's wondrous and weird and just a touch meta — plus, the final bow is a literal showstopper. —*Aaron Bulley*

Through Jan. 12. $20–$35. 510-841-6500 or BerkeleyRep.org.



LECTURES & LIT

LITERARY EVENTS

Art Bond Writers Society With Ink Franklin starts a weekly writing and performance workshop designed to generate new themes and create a participatory community of Bay Area writers. Mondays, 7–9:30 p.m. GetCreative.com. The 25th Annual Collectors 477 24th St., Oakland. 510-384-3168. 25thStreetCollective.com.

Bertha's Harmony Collective Bombs by Vivian Stortz with free-write exercises and workshopping. Thursdays 7–9 p.m. Frank Bette Center 1601 Pacific St., Alameda. 510-523-0567. FrankBette Center.org.

Bonding Out Storytelling presents: Happy Endings With true stories about the year's and performed by featured tellers Kate Willet, Bertha Senegher Ron Jones, Matt Holdaway, and producer Kay Bukhardt 7–9 p.m. The Fox, 1912 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-302-2245, TheFoxOakland.com

Free Hill at Pickaboo Give and get free books of all genres. Saturdays, Sundays, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. free. 510-705-1290. RaphaelFreeBooks.blogspot.com. Bay Area Free Book Exchange, 10870 San Pablo Ave @ Curtis, 510-715-1200. BayAreaFree BookExchange.com.

Poetry Express Readings A weekly poetry venue and open mic. Mondays, 7–9 p.m. Hexagram Flavors Restaurant, 1686 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-747-1179. HexagramBerkeley.com.

More Listings Online
Get bite-sized dozens more literary events at **EastBayExpress.com** or **m.EastBayExpress.com**

PUBLIC INTEREST

Food Not Bombs General Meeting Planning meeting for beginning and meeting. Food Not Bombs meals: First Wednesday of every month, 7:30 p.m., free Long Haul, 3124 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley. 510-540-0751. TheLongHaul.org.

Interstructors International @ UC Berkeley Team of roasting, wholesome people of all personal kinds who are interested in becoming more confident and effective public speakers. Tuesdays, 7:30–8:30 p.m. free. Barrows Hall UC Berkeley, Berkeley.

Toastmasters International @ Waterhouse 416 Toastmasters International is a non-profit educational organization that improves public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of meeting locations. Tuesdays, 7 a.m. free. Waterhouse 416, 416 29th St., Oakland. 510-839-1950. Waterhouse16.com.

SPOKEN WORD

Bella Bach and Spontaneous 55 Thursdays Open mic poetry followed at 10:30 p.m. by dancing, poetry, hip hop, live folk, and more. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., doors/free workshop. East Bay Cultural Center, 2277 International Blvd., Fruitvale. 510-533-6803. EastBayArts.com.

Saturday Night Special, East Bay Open Mic A monthly open mic Bombs by Bella Hardy and Adam Mayer. Last Saturday of every month, 7–9 p.m. free. Nick's Lounge, 2310 Adeline St., Berkeley. 510-652-6485. NicksLounge.com.

PICKS

BustingOut Storytelling Presents: Happy Endings

Everyone can use some fresh perspective around the holiday season. Sat with BustingOut Storytelling, a monthly storytelling event held at The Den (2501 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) once a month, perspective looks a little like the Titanic sinking and then it's clear you're on an air mattress and can walk to the side of the pool," according to the event's website. To close out 2013 with a bang, some of the Bay Area's top comics and storytellers — including, but not limited to, Kamala Dolkhar, Kate Willett, Anna Seregina, Ron Jones and Matt Holdaway — will share personal tales about the most bittersweet time of the year. By the end of the night, things should look much brighter. — *Jay Kirr*

Friday, Dec. 28, 8–10 p.m., $20. BustingOutStorytelling.com

The Earth's Biggest Calendar Sale

If you're screaming for a late holiday gift or want to get a head start on 2014, you're in luck. On New Year's Day, all three Pegasus Bookstore locations in Berkeley and Oakland will hold their annual Earth's Biggest Calendar Sale — a tradition that's been happening for thirty years. Calendars of all sizes and formats will be on sale for $3.95 each or three for $10. Take advantage of this opportunity to get organized for the New Year — but be prepared to battle the crowds. — *LK*

Wednesday, Jan 1, 10 a.m.–10 p.m. PegasusBookstore.com

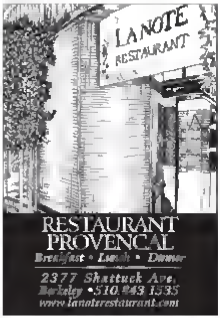


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The Salvadoran-style pork empanadas have a wonderfully crisp texture and a caramelized flavor. Oralia Bailey

COLLIDING CULTURES

Oralia's Kitchen offers a rare trifecta Salvadoran *pupusas*, Mexican burritos, and Louisiana fried chicken

By Luke Tsai

What happens to a fast-food restaurant when it dies? Does the next Carl's Jr. or El Pollo Loco simply emerge fully formed, as from a Russian nesting doll? Or might the place morph into something more interesting?

Consider the case of the former Louisiana Fried Chicken/Happy Donuts location in El Cerrito, which reopened in September with a new name — Oralia's Kitchen — and a fresh "three-in-one" concept, featuring the cuisines of El Salvador, Mexico and, yes, Louisiana. The result is a funky hybrid, part *taqueria*, part fast-food joint, part small-town family restaurant.

Sandwiched between a car dealership and a laundromat, the restaurant sits on a stretch of San Pablo Avenue populated by strip malls and fast-food chains — Taco Bell, McDonald's, and Church's Chicken. Oralia's Kitchen has vestiges of that fast-food ambience; you can even still see the "EN" from the old "Louisiana Fried Chicken" sign peeking out from underneath the "Oralia's Kitchen" banner in front. A handful of personal touches — Salvadoran embroidery and framed portraits on the wall — add a much-needed dose of warmth. (Though, on a chilly December morning, I wished the proprietors would turn up the actual heat.)

Mainly it's the food at Oralia's that transcends the somewhat generic setting. Most dishes are made from scratch, using fresh ingredients, and have a homey authenticity that won me over. Truth be told, there's nothing particularly "fast" about this food. Even the chicken in fried tenders. The restaurant's namesake is Oralia Posada, a native of El Salvador who took over the combination doughnut-shop/fried-chicken joint with her husband Jose Hernandez, who hails from Mexico, and brother Miguel Posada. All three have cooked professionally for years — Posada most notably at a Salvadoran Mexican restaurant in San Francisco's Mission district called Los Panchos; Hernandez at La Palma Mexicatessen, another Mission stalwart. The trio kept a loose affiliation with Louisiana Fried Chicken, but otherwise revamped the menu to reflect their respective cultural and culinary backgrounds.

As for that Cajun-spiced fried chicken, suffice it to say it's above-average fast-food chicken, whose chief merit is the fact that it's fried fresh. (Note that Oralia's only sells thighs, drumsticks, and wings.) That said, in a spirit of innovation, the chefs combined the flavors of Louisiana and Mexico to create what might be the restaurant's most popular item, the gut-busting Fried "Chickurrito" — a burrito stuffed with Cajun-spiced fried-chicken strips, sour cream, lettuce, seasoned rice, and a chipotle cream sauce. Although it bore a passing resemblance to the fried-chicken wraps that are a fixture at more fast-food chains, this was noticeably fresher and packed with a lot more flavor. I especially liked how the crunch of the cool lettuce and the savoriness of the Mexican rice played against the peppery chicken. Entire food-truck empires have been built on much less tasty a food gimmick.

But the most compelling dishes were on the Salvadoran side of the menu. Start with El Salvador's most famous street food, the *pupusa*, which comes two to an order, filled with either pork and cheese or *loroco* (an edible flower) and cheese. The fat, tortilla-like discs of corn-dough came to the table hot off the griddle — well charred, with an appealingly fluffy texture. The pork version was incredibly rich and savory; the *loroco* had that distinctive tang (like a cross between the flavor of a squash blossom and a marinated artichoke heart) that's much beloved by *pupusa* enthusiasts. Each order comes with the traditional accompaniment of curtido, a zesty fermented cabbage slaw — the *kimchi* of Central American cuisine. Whatever you do, use a knife and fork. Each *pupusa* gushed with scalding-hot cheese when I tried to pick it up.

Equally enjoyable was the *desayuno Salvadoreno*, Oralia's take on a traditional Salvadoran breakfast. It's an impressive spread, two eggs any-way-you-like-'em, your cream, a bowl of rice and refried beans, tortillas, and a big wedge of Salvadoran *queso fresco* (a medium-hard cheese like a more crumbly cotija). Had the kitchen not run out of fresh corn tortillas (leaving us to settle for decidedly unexceptional flour ones) during our visit, this would have been the perfect breakfast.

Meanwhile, the sweet-and-savory Salvadoran-style burrito *guanaco*, which had similar components as the *desayuno*, was one of the most interesting burritos I've eaten all year. It had an ooze, an salsa, and barely any cheese (as far as I could tell), and instead relied on the interplay of a few ingredients: exceptionally juicy soft-scrambled eggs, starchy black beans; and sweet, nicely caramelized fried plantains. You can order this any time of day, but it makes for an especially satisfying alternative to a breakfast burrito.

Whatever you order, be sure to get a glass of the daily-changing *agua fresca*. These were, without exception, unexpectedly refreshing. There are also always one or two daily specials listed on a chalkboard next to the register, and quite often they sound too tempting to pass up. During one visit, the offerings slanted Mexican: crab enchiladas and some kind of meat-stuffed torta. Another time, the daily special was two Salvadoran-style pork empanadas, which turned out to be one of my favorite dishes. The empanadas had masa-based dough, which, when deep-fried, turned a deep golden orange, with wonderfully crisp texture and a caramelized, cheese-like flavor. The filling consisted of more of that lorasco-cheese mixture and tender carnitas-style roast pork; piled on top were plenty of *curtido* and fresh salsa.

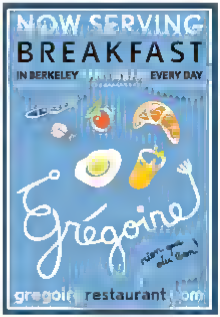
If one disadvantage of the "three-in-one" approach at Oralia's Kitchen is a certain lack of focus, one of the advantages is that there really is something for everyone. You want fast-food-style fried chicken or burritos? Central American home cooking, including a couple of obscure, hard-to-find items? Oralia's has you covered. Sure, you want a little bit longer than you would at, say, Popeye's, but, especially with everything priced at $10 or less, I never saw anyone complain. ●

Luke.Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

Oralia's Kitchen
11775 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito
510-233-2128
Hours: Mon.-Sat. 8 a.m.-9 p.m.
Reservations not accepted
Cash, all major credit cards

Sample Menu

Desayuno Salvadoreno	$10
Burrito Guanaco	$7.50
Fried "Chickurrito"	$8
Pupusas	$5
Salvadoran Empanadas	$8







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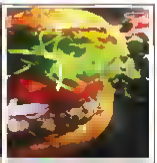
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THE BEST BITES OF 2013

A year filled with killer street snacks, obscure rice noodles, and world-class fried chicken

By Luke Tsai

Tradition dictates that this is the time of year for self-reflection, and for sorting our feelings into easily digestible listicles, so I thought I would look back on the ten most delicious things I ate in the East Bay this year (which, as it turns out, were all in Oakland. (Read into that what you will.)

For the sake of brevity, I limited myself to restaurants that opened during the past year. They are listed in chronological eating order.

Fried Chicken at Miss Ollie's

Okay, so this one might seem obvious. While I also swooned over the rich communal parrillada and the addictive, hushpuppy-like Trinidadian *pholourie*, the fried chicken is what keeps me coming back. Well brined, hand-infused, and juicy-as-all-get-out, Miss Ollie's fried chicken has taken its place as one of the Bay Area's iconic dishes. Someday (a long, long time from now, we hope) they can write this for chef-Sarah Kirsner's epitaph: "She had a skillet. And damn could she fry some chicken."

901 Washington St., Oakland, 510-285-6188, MissOliesOakland.com

Shrimp and Wild Nettle Fried Rice at Ramen Shop

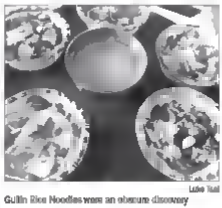
Ramen Shop has garnered all kinds of praise for the chef-owners' labor-intensive ingredient-finessed, uniquely Californian take on Japan's most famous noodle dish — and rightly so. As great as the ramen can be, I'll trade it for a bowl of whatever fried rice the restaurant is dishing out on any given day — say, the version topped with plump white shrimp, smoky-sauteed wild nettles, and tender chunks of *chashu*. The secret, and what makes Ramen Shop's fried rice some of the most flavorful I've ever had, is a shili sauce made with pulverized shrimp shells. Every single dining companion I've gone with has battled me, chopsticks wielded like weapons, for the last bite.

5912 College Ave., Oakland, 510-788-6370, RamenShop.com

Makki Di Roti and Sarson Ka Saag at Masala Cuisine

Of the many home-style dishes I've enjoyed at this tiny gem of an Indian restaurant, located in Deep East Oakland, my favorite is the weekend-only *makki di roti* (a Punjabi flatbread that's like a fat, well-griddled, pupusa-but-corn tortilla), which is served with a potent, gingery puree of spinach and mustard greens (the *sarson ka saag*). This is pure comfort food.

7912 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-878-2643



Luke Tsai

Guilin Rice Noodles were an obscure discovery

Grilled Pork Terrine at Marrow

Man, does Marrow's chef-owner Jon Kesoreek know how to cook up a meaty "breakfast of champions." His grilled pork terrine, a dish I tucked into on a random weekday morning, is basically a heathcheese — all of the meat and fatty bits from the pig's head and hocks pressed into a mold, then grilled, scrapple-like until the edges crisp. Spread on toast along with the creamy yolk of a sous-vide egg, this was one of the richest, most satisfying breakfasts I ate all year. (FYI, Marrow doesn't serve weekday breakfast anymore and the menu changes all the time, but look for the terrine as an occasional weekend brunch special.)

3115 19th St., Oakland, 510-251-1111

Chancla at Melcajete

Order any of the masa based *antojitos* (little street snacks) at Oakland's Melcajete, and you won't be disappointed, especially if you get the airy, slipper-shaped fried tortilla known as the *chancla* which comes topped with shredded cabbage, refried beans, and pieces of fried steak. This is one of those street foods that's best handled with a knife and fork — but if you want to pack the whole thing up and shove it in your mouth like an overstuffed taco, who am I to judge?

1734 Webster St., Oakland, 510-466-5652

Mixte Cebiche at Pucquic

At Pucquic, the tiny high-end Peruvian spot located in the former Guest Chef space, I ate what was perhaps the best cebiche of my life. The components were classic raw shrimp and fish, whole squid, chunks of sweet yam, a fiery rocoto chili emulsion, lime juice, and buttery-tasting corn nuts. But I haven't encountered many cebiches in which the seafood was so unconmonly fresh and the different flavors and textures were so exquisitely balanced. The kicker: a huge fried shrimp head, which added a satisfying crunch and a jolt of intense ocean flavor.

5337 College Ave. Oakland, 510-658-7378 Pucquic.com

Beef and Carrot Dumplings at Tian Jin Dumplings

This humble takeout window serves some of the best dumplings you'll find in the Bay Area, and while the standard fillings (pork with cabbage or Chinese chives) are great, some of the special options, available via advance order, are truly sublime. My favorite is filled with ground beef and finely diced carrots, which may not sound amazing — but once you bite in, and the dumpling's meaty sesame-oil-tinged juices squirt into your mouth, you'll see what I mean.

980 Franklin St., Ste. B Oakland, 510-452-9255

S'mores Chocolate Pudding at Homesteed

I'm not much of a camper, but for whatever reason I'm always a sucker for fancy s'mores-themed desserts. And a few months ago, Homestead served the best twist on s'mores I've ever had in my life — a cool chocolate pudding, garnished with salty-sweet homemade graham crackers and topped with the very best part: a spoony, smoked tea-infused toasted meringue that tasted infinitely smokier and more delicious than even my platonic ideal of a campfire-toasted marshmallow.

4029 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-420-6464, HomesteadOakland.com

Guilin Rice Noodles at Classic Guilin Rice Noodles

This was my most obscure discovery of the year — a regional noodle dish that isn't served at more than a handful of restaurants in the entire United States. More importantly, though, Guilin rice noodles are delicious, a combination of intriguing components — slippery noodles, pickled lengbeans, roasted peanuts mixed raw garlic, and assorted sliced meats — that somehow to form a pleasing whole. Wash the whole thing down with rich beef broth, you won't find a finer $6.50 lunch in Chinatown.

2614 10th St., Oakland, 510-250-9333

Fried Chicken and Raw Oyster Mayonnaise at Box and Bells

We started with fried chicken, so it's only appropriate that we end with fried chicken. In my review of Box and Bells last week I wrote that some one ought to give James Syhabout a medal for this ingenious combination. Impeccably juicy farmtage-style fried chicken paired with a briny, luxurious raw-oyster mayonnaise. Short of an actual medal, let me just say that I can't think of another dish I look more forward to eating again as we head into 2014.

5912 College Ave., Oakland, 510-923-2000 BoxandBells.com

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

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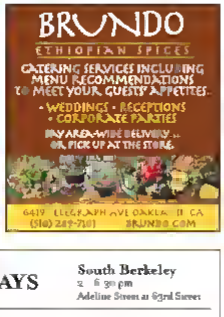












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RESTAURANTS & CAFES

Central American Restaurants

Los Cocos
1449 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland, 510-535-3775
The absence of decor and a haze of smoke over the stoves greet you when you walk into Las Cocos, but over twenty years after it first opened Oakland's best Salvadoran restaurant is still putting out plump, savory *pupusas* (corn cakes stuffed with beans, cheese, or pork), and topped with a tangy slaw). Other Salmadoran dishes include robust soups, great carne asada, fluffy tamales, and fried *pescado* (palm flower). $

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Platano
2942 University Ave., Berkeley 510-704-1325
The Salvadoran dishes here glow with accomplishment, from unusually delicate *pupusas* to *camarones*, rice and black beans sauteed together until they're crispy and fluffy—almost fluffy-light. Irma Mischler's hardscene, earth-toned dining room is a spinoff of Kalimeris, her mom Maria's impeccable Salvadoran cafe in El Sobrante. Like Kalimeris, Platano is a good place to get acquainted with the cuisine, through friendly service and clean-tasting versions of El Salvador's rustic, homey cooking. $–$$

Pupuseria Lupita
3349 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, 510-430-3692
Crank the music to separate the Mexican and American stuff from Salvadoran grub at this family-run place that shares seating with a cybercafe. The *pupusas* are straight up tasty — opt for the chicharron filling, which has a meaty-and-mashy richness reminiscent of French pork rillettes. Chicken-filled pastelitos have veal-made-tasty crispy and the dark resonance of toasted chiles. Don't forget to check out the lush Salvadoran goodies at the restaurant's tamale wagon in the adjacent parking lot. $

Taqueria La Bamba
12345 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-235-2682.
Taqueria La Bamba dishes up the real thing: homestyle Salvadoran food and respectable Mexican antojitos. Salt can be a problem with the Mexican-style meats. Come here for *pupusas*, Salvadoran tamales, creamy refried beans, and heartbreakingly good tortillas, patted out and grilled to order. $

RECENTLY REVIEWED

Box and Bells
5912 College Ave., Oakland, 510-923-0000, BoxandBells.com. The place behind Pop and Bells' chef restaurateur James Syhabout's third restaurant in Oakland, is a simple one: He wanted to create a place that would serve the kind of super-rich, indulgent, meat-centric food that chefs cook for each other and that they like to eat on their days off. As such, the restaurant definitely isn't a place for calorie counters. Take Syhabout's award-worthy fried chicken dish, a riff on Japanese *karaage* served with raw oyster mayonnaise, which provides decadent richness and an echo of the sea in every bite. Or the eight-ounce pork filet: an absurdly tender steak smothered with a large, sensuous mound of crayfish bearnaise — layers upon layers of fat and flavor. Even the vegetable dishes seem topped, variously with fatty meat droppings and rich, thick house lardons. Our advice? Have a light lunch. Go for a nap. This isn't the kind of restaurant where you'll want to maximize restraint. $$$–$$$$

Kan'bigen
2201 14th Ave., Oakland, 510-891-8501, Kanbigen.com. Kan'bigen is a labor of love for chef-owner Charleen Caabay whose East Oakland restaurant's name is a play on words in Tagalog that translates to "Let's eat, my friends." Like many Filipino eateries, the restaurant has a steam table and features a handful of saucy, long-cooked stews like pork adobo and the chicken *afritada* that hold up to the treatment. But Caabay wanted to introduce diners to the freshness of Filipino cuisine, so about half the dishes are cooked to order in a hot wok. Try the lasagna-free rice, a zesty hot collection of marinated beef stir fry that's served over soy-sauce-soaked rice. Or get the plump grilled-to-order shrimp drenched in a lush house-made garlic sauce, which Caabay likened to a *mainomnam*-infused aioli. Kan'bigen is an order-at-the-counter kind of place, but the service is warm, and the portions are often big enough to feed the whole damn potluck. $–$$

Yonga Paella
2229 Kruch St., Oakland, 510-205-0011, YongaPaella.com. In terms of the United States, Asian restaurants pay more than $30 for a minimum two-person paella. So it is that Eduardo Balaguer, the chef-owner of Oakland's Yonga Paella, has made it his decade-long mission to demystify the famous Valencian rice dish and bring it down from its pedestal. At Balaguer's restaurant, which is tucked away on the outskirts of the Jack London district, you get a generous plate of paella, served quickly enough to eat during a half-hour lunch break, for just $12. We especially enjoyed the paella *tradicional*, based on Balaguer's mother's recipe, which is a classic mixture of meat and seafood piled atop rice that's addictively savory and flavor-infused from the sweating of garlic and onions, and from the subtle smokiness of saffron and *pimentón*. Highlights from the mostly fresh-from-tapas selection include garlicky sautéed shrimp and the classic Catalonian tomato bread *pa amb tomaquet*. $$

Mama Papa Lithuania
1241 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-4100 or MamaPapaLithuania.com. Mama Papa Lithuania might be the unassuming, most charming little restaurant in an island city whose identity — good-naturedly speaking — is defined by quaint, charming little restaurants. The restaurant, which purports to be the only Lithuanian eatery on the West Coast, is also the only place in the Bay Area where you can eat Lithuanian-style potato dumplings, drink 365-proof liquor, and end your meal with a layered honey cake known as *medutis*. If the sweet common reaction to the food is that it tastes like someone's mom's home cooking, that's because it is — literally. Owner Vaidas Sakys' mother, Danute Sakiene, is the chef. Signature dishes include the aforementioned dumplings (thick, chewy potato-dough wrappers filled with seasoned pork); excellent stuffed cabbage rolls (available as a semi-regular special), and the delicate, seven-layer *medutis*, which is infused with the smoky sweetness of roasted honey. $$

FOOD & WINE

CULINARY & WINE

Celebrate New Year's Eve at Bourbon & Beef [illegible] Dec. 31 [illegible] BourbonBeef.com.

Celebrate New Year's Eve at [illegible] **Pizza House** [illegible] BuildPizzeria.com.

Celebrate New Year's Eve at [illegible] Lafayette.

Celebrate New Year's Eve at [illegible] Oakland [illegible]

Celebrate New Year's Eve at [illegible]

Celebrate New Year's Eve at [illegible]

[illegible] TheLakeChalet.com.

Celebrate New Year's Eve at [illegible] Oakland [illegible] RamenShop.com.

[illegible] **Food Market** [illegible] Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. [illegible] College of Alameda, 555 Atlantic Ave. [illegible]

[illegible] **Pop-up La Peña** [illegible] LaPena.org.

[illegible] MuseumCA.org.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Alameda [illegible] **Market** [illegible] Alameda.

[illegible]

Fruitvale Farmers' Market [illegible] Oakland.

[illegible]

Berkeley Farmers' Market [illegible] Berkeley.

Oakland Children's Hospital Farmers' Market [illegible] Oakland.

North Oakland [illegible] **Farmers' Market** [illegible]

Old Oakland Farmers' Market [illegible] Oakland.

[illegible] **Jack London Square Farmers' Market** [illegible] Oakland.

[illegible] **Farmers' Market** [illegible]

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market [illegible] Berkeley [illegible]

[illegible]

PICK

New Year's Eve Dinner

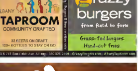
Ace Rockridge says *arrivederci* to 2013 on New Year's Eve with a festive six-course holiday meal. Using choice seasonal ingredients, executive chef Rocky Maselli will prepare special dishes such as roasted goat with turnip purée, parsnips, and fried rosemary; carrot *sformato* with braised winter greens salad; and pistachio-dragoncello and mascarpone-rum semifreddo with espresso chocolate cookie crumbs and chocolate rum sauce. The restaurant will stay open past midnight for those who want to ring in the New Year. — *Anneli Rufus*


Roasted goat

Tuesday, Dec. 31, 5-11 p.m., $85. AceRockridge.com









THE GREAT CRACKSBY

Stock market booms (*The Wolf of Wall Street*), print magazine crashes (*The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*)

By Kelly Vance



The Wolf of Wall Street is the weakest movie of Martin Scorsese's career.

A great director is entitled to make a dud once in awhile. Charlie Chaplin did it with *A Countess from Hong Kong*. For John Ford, it was *7 Women*. And Terrence Malick's latest, *To the Wonder*, had serious writing problems to go along with its narrative sketchiness.

But those "gaffes of the masters" at least bore a certain cohesiveness with the filmmaker's body of work, and arguably advanced the themes and aspirations of the director along the lines of his more successful efforts. Such is not the case with *The Wolf of Wall Street*, the weakest movie in Martin Scorsese's fifty-year career. It sharks into multiplexes this holiday week as a horrible mistake dressed up in juvenile gross-out drag — the worst writing Scorsese has ever been associated with.

Some stories are just too stupid to care about. *The Wolf of Wall Street* is based on a book by Jordan Belfort, a convicted stock-fraud swindler and "motivational speaker" from Queens, New York whose "pump-and-dump" exploits in the penny-stock markets of the 1990s were punctuated by an almost comical display of crassness — "almost" is the crucial descriptor here — involving booze, cocaine and other drugs, swarms of prostitutes, sales pep rallies straight out of *Get Him to the Greek*, and that old favorite, *Other People's Money*. He liked to boast that he was selling garbage stocks to garbage men. Belfort is played by Leonardo DiCaprio, who earlier this year portrayed F. Scott Fitzgerald's ostentatious Roaring Twenties millionaire in *The Great Gatsby*. Compared to that role, DiCaprio's Belfort is a loud-mouthed slob imitating what he thinks rock stars do when they strike it rich, and Scorsese (alongside screenwriter Terence Winter) buys into it wholesale as a portrait of its times. Presenting *The Great Cracksby*, ripped from the pages of *The Wall Street Urinal*.

Gouging his way up from the bottom of the food chain, disgraced ex-brand-name trader Belfort encounters the usual colorful role models and sympathetic souls. One stockbroker, played by whirlwind Matthew McConaughey, is fond of beating his chest and whooping a Tarzan yell in crowded restaurants to show his bravery. Belfort's right-hand man, a corpulent man-child named Donnie Azoff (Jonah Hill, up to his old tricks) is married to his own first cousin. Patrick Denham (Kyle Chandler), the FBI man on their tails, cannot be bought off with yachts and strumpets. But Swiss banker Jean-Jacques Saurel (Jean Dujardin from *The Artist*, well cast) surely can. Belfort's trophy wife Naomi (Australian starlet Margot Robbie) is a Brooklyn sex bomb. Her Aunt Emma (Joanna Lumley) aids Belfort's money laundering efforts from London. The rhythm is exactly the same as in Scorsese's landmark gangster movies, only dumbed down a notch. *Goodfellas* with nerds. A clownish *Casino*. Brokerage as frat house. *The Bowery Boys Wreck the Stock Market*.

> **The Wolf of Wall Street**
> Directed by Martin Scorsese. With Leonardo DiCaprio and Jonah Hill. Now playing.
>
> **The Secret Life of Walter Mitty**
> Directed by Ben Stiller. With Stiller and Kristen Wiig. Now playing.

We detect a pattern here. Scorsese throws himself into Belfort's follies with abandon, but he's coming to the party late and it shows. The insane marching band with-bimbos production number bears a suspicious resemblance to Charles Foster Kane's comparatively sedate newsroom celebration in *Citizen Kane*. Opening as it does on a week after *American Hustle* — David O. Russell's tribute to/imitation of *Goodfellas* and *Casino* — *Wolf* occupies a strange position. Russell's knockoff of vintage Scorsese is tighter and funnier than Scorsese's own imitation of his former glories. *Wolf* is a penny-stock version of itself, combining Scorsese'sam-out dubious late-period excesses in one near-unwatchable hoodle.

Despite all the plundering and partying, the movie is fairly bald on plot incident. There are several witty moments, but individual sequences run on far too long, such as the one in which Belfort laboriously crawls, wriggles, and worms his way out of the country club to his car one night under the weight of too many Quaaludes. Did someone actually write this? Saw the same gag in each of the *Hangover* flicks.

More to the point, is Scorsese running out of ideas? If it could happen to Orson Welles, it could happen to him. He should double whatever fee he's paying to his longtime film editor Thelma Schoonmaker. Without her cutting this mess would run four hours instead of its bloated 165 minutes. If there's a saving grace for this superbad time-waster, it's in little stabs of happiness such as the one in which writer Fran Lebowitz takes a cameo shot as a judge. Scorsese should have hired her as a script doctor and chopped thirty minutes — no, make that an hour — of nose candy and prostitutes out of the film. That would at least be a start.

We would expect a reasonable amount of candy-ass self-congratulation in Ben Stiller's 74-years-late adaptation of James Thurber's short story *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*. And Stiller does flatter himself by portraying mousy daydreamer Walter, keeper of the "negative assets" photo morgue at *Life* magazine, as a nice guy who only needs the right circumstances to prove to his special someone (Kristen Wiig's Cheryl, a fellow *Life* staffer) that he's a real hero underneath.

But there are times in which it's better to throw away our critical magnifiers and just let Stiller's (and adapting screenwriter Steve Conrad's) everyman fantasy wash over us like an Icelandic calving glacier. That's why this movie is opening Christmas Day. Poor Walter and Cheryl are the type of people who keep their heads down and labor to put out a product — in this case, an outdated, photo-dominated print publication — while their new corporate masters are preparing to take the magazine online and lay off hundreds. If Stiller can squeeze a smile out of that situation, he's a magician. He does and therefore he is.

The Iceland scenery is spectacular, whether it's standing in for Greenland or Afghanistan or just being itself. Both Stiller and Wiig look right for their parts as gentle souls in the 21st century clutches of corporate predator Ted Hendricks (Adam Scott with beard). And while we're on the subject, bearded (and drunken) helicopter pilot Ólafur Darri Ólafsson is the funniest character in the movie. However, Sean Penn as the movie's MacGuffin, a globe-trotting photographer, is fairly gratuitous. *Life* mag itself has been officially defunct since 2007, so that part of the movie's mechanism is absolutely true. There is no *Life* left for Walter, but he'll skate by all right. ●

Kelly.Vance@EastBayExpress.com

MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, go to EastBayExpress.com or scan the QR code. Capsule reviews are written by Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to Zainab.Mohammed@EastBayExpress.com.

OPENING

47 Ronin In feudal Japan, Lord Asano rules his province with [illegible]. (119 min.)

Grudge Match From the [illegible] "Bucket List" [illegible] Robert (Raging Bull) De Niro vs. Stallone (Rocky) [illegible] Billy "The Kid" McDonnen (De Niro) [illegible] Henry "Razor" Sharp (Stallone) [illegible] Alan Arkin [illegible] Kim Basinger [illegible] Tim Kelleher and Rodney Rothman [illegible]

Nobody Home [illegible]

Her A lonesome and sensitive man earns a living by writing [illegible] Joaquin Phoenix [illegible] Scarlett Johansson [illegible] (126 min.)

Justin Bieber's Believe Pop superstar Justin Bieber [illegible] (91 min.)

Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom [illegible] Nelson Mandela [illegible] Idris Elba [illegible]

[illegible] (138 min.) (K.V.)

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty See this week's review. (114 min.)

The Wolf of Wall Street See this week's review. (165 min.)

ONGOING

12 Years a Slave [illegible] Steve McQueen [illegible] Solomon Northup [illegible] Chiwetel Ejiofor [illegible] Michael Fassbender [illegible] Paul Dano [illegible] Paul Giamatti [illegible] Benedict Cumberbatch [illegible]

[illegible] Lupita Nyong'o [illegible]

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Photo By Calvin Hollis / Model Lolita Harlequin

[illegible]

ONE-NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

The Wizard of Oz (102 min., 1939). (New Parkway Theater, [illegible] 7:00.)

Adventures in [illegible] (1939 and [illegible]). (The Magick Lantern, Point Richmond, 7:30.)

FRIDAY DECEMBER 27

[illegible]

Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory ([illegible] 1971). Paramount Movie Classics (Paramount Theatre, Oakland, 8:00.)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1

Floorlight: An American Tragedy ([illegible] 2013). [illegible] Hall, [illegible] 7:30.)

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MUSIC

WHAT'S IN A LIKE?

How important is Facebook to a band's success?

By Adam Perry

Booking agents, managers, venue owners, and fans often judge bands by how many "likes" (or followers) they have on Facebook. Some might even stop short of listening to the actual music on an artist's Facebook page if the number of likes is only in the hundreds. However, the number of Facebook fans an artist has is irrelevant if those fans aren't paying attention to the artist's page. Facebook engagement — or "fan activity" — usually comes in the form of followers either "liking" or commenting on the act's page. But getting Facebook followers to regularly engage can be a full-time job which is a tough task considering most musicians are already juggling other careers.

Ilana Harkavy is a musician and social-media guru who lives in Los Angeles and works (under the name Nailed It! Media) for numerous Bay Area artists, helping them to increase their fan accumulation and engagement on Facebook and other online media. "You want people to look you up and say 'They're happening,'" she said. "Ultimately I'd rather go on a page with 500 likes and a lot of interaction than 2,500 [likes] and an interaction, because it's embarrassing. It's vanity. And a promoter will look at interaction. They want [thousands of] likes and giant interaction."

Harkavy, who said she only works for musicians whose names, personality and goals she's fond of, charges between $100 and a few thousand dollars a month for consulting and fanbase-growing. Her Facebook related services include increasing likes — by among other things, spreading her love of the artist on Facebook (via groups) to members she believes would enjoy the artist — and posting ads and content on behalf of artists on their Facebook pages.

One Bay Area band Harkavy has worked with is Tidelands, a San Francisco indie-pop duo consisting of singer/guitarist Gabriel Leis (who also plays Rugelkarn) and drummer Mie Araki. Leis, Tidelands' chief songwriter and booker who also manages Joe's Taco Lounge in Mill Valley, said that after almost twenty years of writing, recording, and performing, he's finally embraced music for music's sake. In other words, he's not necessarily trying to "make it," and is instead focused on writing and recording songs and sharing them on occasional performances and Tidelands' Facebook page.

"If I could do without Facebook, I would," Leis said. "They have you by the balls a little bit, because you're dependent on it for getting the word out there." With the help of Harkavy Tidelands' new has nearly 9,000 likes on Facebook, with daily fan interaction that shows real interest in the band's music as well as the members' distinct personalities.



Gabriel Leis and Mie Araki paid a social media consultant to increase their Facebook likes. Aviana Brazil

Jim Greer — a Bay Area musician and producer who has collaborated with such artists as Mike Patton (Guided by Voices, Galactic, and, most recently The Soft White Sixties — calls Facebook a necessary evil for bands. There's too much focus on the amount of Facebook activity like 'liking' our metric, a measure of how well [a musician's career] is going," he said. "It doesn't really mean anything. It's just a computer program. It's strange that that's part of the goal now. But what's the other way — advertise on the street? There's no middle ground."

"It's at the point where it can't be avoided and you can't be a rebel and not be on it," said Greer. "It's kind of depressing." According to him, "huge prices are paid, culturally" because of the importance bands place on Facebook.

In search of the kind of online presence that might impress prospective fans as well as industry folks who might have career-changing opportunities to offer some artists have embraced less-than-honest methods to accumulate likes, such as paying people to set up fake Facebook accounts in order to like their band. One common scheme involves the Farmville app, which has tens of millions of users, most of them in developing countries. In order to grow the number of likes on its Facebook page, a band might, for instance, connect with Farmville and offer gamers free goods in exchange for liking the band. There are even websites devoted to exposing bands suspected of having fake likes.

Those schemes culminate in meaningless numbers, which are magnified by the corresponding absence of fan engagement and a surpeet "Most Popular City" of the band's "likers." "Terrible idea," said Greer, who often provides marketing and promotion advice to new artists, about the idea of buying Facebook likes. "It's just fake. It's not gonna win you anything but thousands of people never paying attention to you's gain. Nobody should do it."

Last month, I noticed that the Facebook page of the San Francisco rock band The New Up (formerly Sunfire Pleasure) had about 6,500 likes and a "Most Popular City" of Ho Chi Minh City even though most of its posts had only a few likes. Repeated messages to the band requesting comment were ignored, but soon after the band's "Most Popular City" was no longer public information.

I finally got in touch with Margaret Pilcher who is listed on the band's Facebook page as its manager. She denied that the band has bought likes. "They're all real," she said. "I don't know about the Farmville app... we certainly don't use that and don't use other apps. We're trying to make it like any other band. We wouldn't falsify our likes." She added that band members declined to respond to my interview requests because they have been "super busy" recording.

"We might never tour Vietnam," Pilcher said, "but never say never."

For bands who might be considering buying likes, Harkavy warned that the tactic is "not gonna help you a following. It's just a weird vanity thing... It's cheating. And indie fans are very skeptical and will look to see where the likes are coming from. Remember: People do see it, and you're basically airing your dirty laundry."

"Take a step back and ask yourself why you are in a band," she continued. "Is it about making music or about the fame?"

However, some bands may be unknowingly garnering fake likes by being associated with bands that have paid for such promotion. A post earlier this year on the site Heavyblogisheavy.com noted that paid users may like similar bands in an attempt to appear more genuine.

Regardless, Greer said bands may find it in their best interest to pay less attention to Facebook. In fact, he's confident that young musicians are already finding new avenues for sharing their music, partly because "they don't want their moms to see what they're doing."

"They're excited to make art," he said, "which is what it boils down to." ●

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DOING IT THEIR WAY

How Brasil produced one of the best local rock records of the year

By Sam Lefebvre

The digital age has given artists the ability to increase their audiences without the aid of a record label. Now any technologically inclined act can record, manufacture, market, and distribute its music and many relish the autonomy. Of course, bands still have to write songs and hone their performances, so doing everything oneself can be overwhelming. That's the dilemma East Bay band Brasil faced when strategizing the release of its self-titled debut — one of 2013's most diverse and rewarding local rock 'n roll albums. The four members outsourced certain tasks and undertook others themselves but it took some missteps earlier in their musical careers to arrive at their model.

Brasil formed in the summer of 2012 after the dissolution of two other bands. Singer Jasper Leach and guitarist Paul Kurtz came from reverse-hardcore/rock outfit The Symbolack Jews, and Leach brought with him drummer Mike Vattuone from his long-running rock band The Mynuses while Vattuone invited his roommate Tom Ferguson to join on bass. The four members, who are all in their mid-twenties, created Brasil in a rehearsal space in the eighth in section's converted warehouse home in Oakland. Six months later, the band recorded ten songs in three days for its debut album at Tiny Telephone studio in San Francisco with engineer Jay Pellicci.

The decision by Brasil to decline the advances of a local record label and self-release its album was based on the desire to control every aspect of the process. The band sought outside help to record and promote the album — areas in which they felt they needed someone else's expertise to execute the jobs in a timely manner — but even then, the members wanted to finish say as possible. They handled the design and manufacturing specifications for the vinyl version of the album, determined the scheduling of the release, and plan to book their own tour this year.

"We have so much to handle just getting it good as we can musically that I didn't want the headache of handling publicity on top of it," Leach explained. Besides, he continued, "We're the type of people [that] record companies hate publicists." (Indeed, even large labels outsource press matters to agencies.) Brasil also retained control over other elements a label might usually be in charge of, such as distribution and tracking orders.

When *Brasil* was released in October 2013 it received a slew of positive reviews (including in these pages) and the band's record release show at the Brick & Mortar Music Hall was well attended. Its set moved swiftly from the punchy power-pop of "Dr. Zero" to the restless twang of "Broomhouse." All the while, Leach's tuneful ruminations on cosmic movements and the power of myth soared over the players' lean and dynamic performances. As in conversation, Leach's stage banter and vocal style was dry and dejected, rightfully earning him comparisons to Nineties indie-rock singers, but he's articulate as well as adept at spiking strange narratives with sly humor.

Leach credits his past band experiences for Brasil's decision to self-release its material: "You can read about it all you want and mull it over in your room all you want but you won't know how to do it until you throw yourself into the deep end," he said about learning to manage a band. He initially founded The Mynuses in 2006 as a solo project, but it evolved through several incarnations and even became an unwieldy octet before the band broke up in 2012. The Mynuses also chose to self-release an album, *Pagans*, though Leach admits the process was mishandled.

"The Mynuses' album was a huge lesson about what not to do," he said. "We had no money so we tracked it at Ex'perience [College] because it was free. It took us about two years to finish and then nine months to mix." Promoting the album was "its own special disaster." Leach continued. Shortly after *Pagans* was released, The Mynuses went on hiatus. The process convinced Leach to leave engineering in capable hands. On the drawbacks of recording and mixing with poorly equipped amateurs, Leach said, "You really run into a lot of trouble, because you're prolonging all of the soul-searching."

So Brasil sought to capture its strength as a live unit in a swift studio session overseen by an experienced engineer. "If you go into the studio for three days, like we did, where there's a gun to your head and it's your money, you tend to think on your feet and make better decisions," said Leach, "rather than going to somebody's house to jam and wondering why it doesn't sound good for nine months."

Brasil's credo is less "do-it-yourself" and more "do-it-smartly," or simply "imagine you're the record label." It involves deciding when and to which agencies to delegate tasks. That allows members to retain control while remaining focused on the main goal, writing excellent songs. The craft and performance on *Brasil* speaks to their success. ●

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Brasil decided not to sign with a local label

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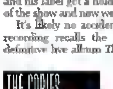
Electrifying tape harrowing prose and dire rock.

The Gories

The Shaw Tapes. Live in Detroit 5/27/88

Where were you on May 27 1988? Chances are you weren't one of the handful of lucky jocks at a party in the Limbs outside Detroit, Michigan watching Mick Collins, Danny Kroha, and Peggy O'Neill (aka The Gories) rock you giddy. Lucky for us, Gories disciple Jack White and his label get a hold of a bootleg recording of the show and now we can pretend we were.

It's likely no accident that the title of this recording recalls the Velvet Underground's definitive live album *The Quine Tapes*. Third Man declares The Gories equal to Velvet Underground in influence and reach, and for good reason. Both bands sold few records during their time, but, to paraphrase Brian Eno, it seems everyone who bought a Velvet Underground or Gories record has gone on to make influential music themselves.



But why, bother with a 25-year-old bootleg? It's rare that a live record can match the thrill of an actual performance, and this recording is left, to be sure. But the infectious pared-down beat of The Gories' signature garage sound pulls you along on a ride through blues, surf rock, and Stooges covers, as well as originals that would show up on their debut *Houserockin* a year later. The recording is peppered with banter from the band and the (sparse but fervent) crowd, which only adds to the intimacy and the energy. And like the best shows you've seen in a way-out dingy club or a library basement, it's more about the experience than the soundboard.

The Gories may have been underappreciated by the masses in their heyday but their influence is still as powerful as any of the biggest names in rock, then and now. Put this one on when you end up inviting the bar home with you after last call, or make it the soundtrack to a rainy morning baking muffins. *The Shaw Tapes* will electrify you. (Third Man Records)

—Kara Sheetz

Mick Turner

Don't Tell the Driver

Guitarist Mick Turner is one-third of the Australian instrumental combo The Dirty Three, and he's also been an accompanist for Cat Power and Nick Cave. Unlike many guitarists, Turner does not use his spare time to pursue a solo career to "spotlight" his solo prowess — if anything, *Don't Tell the Driver* (his fourth solo album, and first in about six years) highlights Turner the composer in a cycle of vocal and instrumental pieces of uneasy listening.

"Long Way Home" features Turner's pensive, jazz-tinged, crystalline guitar over a chorus of yearning brass and shifting, clattering drums that seem to echo the Ghost of Christmas Past's chains. The title track continues the disorienting ambiance with haunting melodica, distant tinkling piano, and the parched, forlorn vocals of Caroline Kennedy-McCracken, while Turner's spare melody on his six-string shimmers like an approaching/encroaching sundown. The virtually orchestral "The Navigator" articulates in an understated manner while growing somewhat menacing, as if a group of travelers is nearing a fateful juncture. "Over Waves" features the regimented yet oddly soothing voice of Melbourne opera singer Oliver Mann in a surreal setting of ominous drums a gaudy loping folk like motif from Turner, stately hopeful piano chords, and a soothing chorus from Kennedy-McCracken. "We're Not Going Home" has a martial cadence and alludes ever so slightly to the melody of The Beatles' "Two of Us" (whose refrain is, ironically, we're *going home*).



While primarily instrumental, *Don't Tell the Driver* evokes the harrowing songs of Leonard Cohen and the prose of Samuel Beckett with its depictions of ache, loss, and restless, perhaps endless, quests. (Drag City)

—Mark Keresman

Life Stinks

Life Stinks

Life Stinks takes its name from a bleak song written by the notorious Ohio depressive Peter Laughner, who committed suicide in 1977 at the age of 25. It's a telling reference for the San Francisco outfit, whose debut full length features seven unrelentingly negative songs. The singer vows that he's a *shadow on the wall* and moans at sentimentalists mourning their dead kin. One song is called "Your Face Is a Mess." If there's humor intended, it's hidden behind fetid guitar squalor and primitive drums.



In fact, the music is an example that it doesn't impart much besides savagery and mean spirited-ness. "Constrictors" and "Your Face Is a Mess" begin with nearly identical beat lines, and every song contains some variant on the floor-tom-and-snare backbeat. The most interesting musical moment, which happens at the end of "Your Face Is a Mess," finds squealing saxophone and the album's sole guitar solo mingling in a disorderly mess for a few minutes. There's a heavy nod to Velvet Underground here, especially on the glaringly "Sister Ray"-like sixteen minute dirge "My My My," which closes the album.

Heard next to debut albums from fellow San Franciscan acts like Scraper and CCR Head-Hunter *Life Stinks* shows that the city's nebulous psychedelic escapism from five years ago has been replaced by rock music that's more restless and devolved. Considering the increasing difficulty of being an artist in the exorbitantly expensive city, the trend toward pared-down hostility isn't surprising. *Life Stinks* paints a nice and humorless picture of an upstart rock band's dreamtrodden frustration. (SS Records)

—Sam Lefebvre

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JINX JONES TRIO 9PM
SATURDAY DEC 28
In Jinx Jones' impressive musica career he has v tied nearly every conceivable style and genre of the electric guitar. From his work with R&B divas, En Vogue to his own acclaimed release ty album, "Llama's To Twang, Jones has always worked to expand the possibilities of the instrument. The one thing that remains consistent in roughout Jones multi-stylistic journey is the grace and finesse of his virtuoso playing. JinxJones.com
THURSDAY DEC 31
NEW YEARS EVE W/ MACABEA 9PM
$10 a 10pm Party favors and champagne toast at midnight!
Come ring in the New Year at Jupiter this year! Rain or shine, Jug will be doin it up with party favors, champagne toasts, special dinner menu, and a great night of music! This year we welcome on the smokin Brazilian jazz/funk of Macabéa. Augmented by Cuban and North Amer can multi-instrumentalists, Click and c me Macabéa take a detour th ough Jazz and Funk before diving deep into Brazil an music. It's like someone pushed four musicians from all Americas into the same room and locked the door. It doesn't matter whether it's a classic Bossa or a faster Samba, the four musicians of Macabéa say "don't label it, simply listen to it and get ready to dance!"
Facebook.com/macabeaatjug

CONCERTS & CLUBS

THURSDAY 26

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

David Luning Bluegrass Experience w/ Jim Nunally, Keith Little, Chad Manning, and Sam Gilliam, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $20/$22

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Happy Hour feat. a shifting line-up of artists, The Bheer Arts Center, 7 p.m., free

Tiny Tim Hardware Feat. Beatnik, Monkey Boxer Blues, 7:30 p.m., free

Soul Doctor (Avant Jazz with Blues influenced sledging), The Alley, 8 p.m., sold

Rock & Pop

The Lost Hippies Starry Plough, 5 p.m., $20

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Rose Garden Series: Hip-hop, Neo Soul, Rap, Rare Groove, Boogie, Disco Latin Music, Starry Plough, 9 p.m., free

Leftover Vacation Hull-Gay Tribute Show feat. Bay Of Foxy, Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m., $27

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Ada Sosa + Band w/ Grupo Afro Pacifico, Mezcal Loft Series, Peña Pacifica, The Herbst Theatre, La Peña Cultural Center, 8 p.m., $15A

Siesta Cultural w/ Great Blue Kids Squad, Bay Performance Auditorium, 12:30 p.m., $10/$13

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Travis Rivard and Brandon Rhea, Mezcal & Blues 7:30 & 9:30 p.m., $10

Rock & Pop

April and the Paradigm w/ The American Professionals and Matt Jaffe and the Dimensional Beings of the Hill, 8 p.m., $8

Radioactive w/ Spooky Groove Disco & Mayor Blues Band, 9 p.m., $10

Refreshed w/ mike Relm Band, 8 p.m., $8

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Mezzo Mixx + Hip HR, Great Room, 9 p.m., $5, $8

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Afrobilicious w/ DJ Rasmus Monster Bee Great Room, 10:30 p.m., $8 after 10:30p.m., $8 after

FRIDAY 27

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

David Luning Bluegrass Experience w/ Jim Nunally, Keith Little, Chad Manning, and Sam Gilliam, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $28.50, $26.50

Hardly Strictly Trad High Roots Groove Cafe, 7 p.m., $17A

The Original Grouse Eagles Hall, 9 p.m., $15

Classical & Opera

Jerry Hochman Leads Quartet Birthday Arts Festival noon free

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Clifford Lamb and Alexis Bloom Quartet, 5 7th Street Gallery, 8:30 p.m., $15

Elevator Lounge, 8:30 p.m., free

Commercial Soiree! Girls Latin, 7 p.m., and Hermosa & Hot Sauce, The Bheer Room, 9 p.m., $15, $20

Bird Gerber Group just the guest clarinet singers, The Alley, 9 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

Bane w/ Special Beats, Great Room, Applewarp, World of Shit, Bus Bane, 804 Gilman, 7 p.m., $6-$20

The Bands w/ Shitbucket Starry Plough, 9 p.m., $7-$12

Rock, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Grayscale Great Fourth New Anniversary w/ The Ser Stacy Bleek, Power Struggler, Chaos Rabbi, and Beats, Tea and Petals, 8 p.m., $12, $15

Blues Club Obsidian w/ Emanuel Ellis Groove, Miss Kane, and Elton Tamburello, and other surprising live performers, The Uptownstairs Saloon, 9 p.m., $10

Soul Funk Stone Yoshi's Oakland, 9 & 10 p.m., $33-$35

Kentucky Rapids w/ Breeze w/ Nasty Southern, The Night Light, 10 p.m., $5

Fluorite Jupiter, 9 p.m., need

Fresh Cleaver w/ Connection AC The Uptown Pets Sic Sic Siren

Alexander, the Ice Man Hot Rise, Bone Tone, 8 p.m., $6

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Jazzbrat Flamenco w/ singer Roberto Zamora, virtuoso guitarist Jason McGuire, Bee dancers, Dunnells, 9:30 p.m., $8

Pellejo Sean Ashborne, 9 p.m., $13, $15 w/about

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

The Sam Hinton Mood The Quintet 9 p.m., $25

Joyce Bloom Jugad Returnists, 8 p.m., $20 [ill]

Shane Steele, Mosaic & Blues 7:30 & 10 p.m., $22

Classical & Opera

Well-Strung Hotel Nikko, 8 p.m., $35, $40

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Infected Mushrooms w/ Savant and Dan Bastrak, The Regency Ballroom 9 p.m., $25-$45

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Rockets Green Avenues, 9 p.m., $10-$15

Black Blessed Jazz Orchestra Top of the Mona 8 p.m.-12:30 p.m., $15

Rock & Pop

The Shook w/ The Antitoxin, So What the Mystery, and DJ Bastard Rave, The Wreckroom, 9:30 p.m., $6

Ghost and Survival w/ Holy Roar Room, Psychic Ills, Dead Gay, Bus Bane, 804 Gilman, Bone Thugs & Mortar Block Hall, 9 p.m., $7

Hopeless Hippies w/ Erik La Chapelle and Band, Burnt Ohm, 9 p.m., $8

Ghost Ghost Ghost w/ Nasa Jackson Bus Performance, Ghosts of the Hill, 9:30 p.m., $10/$12

Jessie Evans w/ Mario Scar and DJ Ghost Hamster Tavern, 9:30 p.m., $8

Kamala Liar w/ The Bee Department, The Scallops, Bee Little Kart Shop Hill Bee, 9:30 p.m., $8

Memphis Mayfair Mess w/ Flint Box Boys, Whisky Rita Fingers Bus Mess T. Bone's

Greenside Upstart Cafe de Nasa, 8 p.m., $11 $10

Sweetwater Music 50 Mason Booker Booker 8 p.m., $TBA

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Blues presents The Blues Birthmas Party w/ Jesse Sharp w/ Mess Blues, 9 p.m., $11, $25

Happy Hour w/ Harmonize, Promoter Ed SAMA, MARVIE, and DJ Runaway DC, Bus Bane, 10 p.m., $TBA

Friday Night Soul Party Feat. Blues Bus Bus Cassell w/ Viola Ghost Shaw, Bee vinyl selections by Andy Cable Bee Bee, The Regency, 9 p.m., $18

Jess Williams San Francisco, 9 & 10 p.m., $20-$34

Shingle w/ DJ KOB, Bloom Bloom Room, 9 p.m., $10

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Zongo Junction w/ Big Tree Gibbs and Brass Magic, Chad American Bloom Hall, 8:30 p.m., $15

SATURDAY 28

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

Hans Ghost and Blue Bass The Rattle, 8 p.m., $5

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Gilbert Gregorian Gilbert Gilbert Thunder, 9:30 p.m., $10]

The Spex Project: Opus 22 a multi-media event w/ Heather Kelly, The Spex Project Orchestra, Berkeley Arts Festival, 8 p.m., $15-$20

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Steve Hodges w/ The Cruz The New Room, 8 p.m., $7 $20

Dan Jarvis Trio Jupiter, 8 p.m., and

Larry Vuckovich Beyond Imagery Trio The Sound Room, 8 p.m., $20/ $25

The Reel Cafe Monograms on the Hill 7 p.m., free

Black Swing Orchestra Ashkenaz, 9 p.m., $12, $15

Derek Jay of Jazz Ghost Bones, 7:30 p.m., need

Sue Ellicks Group just the guest cabaret singers, The Alley, 9 p.m., free

Tahimo Duo Friends 5:7th Ghost Gallery, 8:30 p.m. $15

Kids

Amigoland w/ Bone personic Joey Bim Bobby La Peña Cultural Center Would a re. $15, $6 $4 adults

Rock & Pop

Orchestra w/ The Honey Wilders and Black Bone The Eight Eight, 8 p.m., $8

Global Affairs w/ Great Feed singers, Trash Soup Sandwich, and Doctor Stiker, Gum Club, 8 p.m., $8

Saturday RAWKS feat. SEE Driftwood and The Vital Organs w/ special Heartbeat, The Stop Time, 10:00 Bloom and Soul Life, Slum Club 4-8 p.m., $TBA

Bonkers w/ Lorrie Bonkers and The Bonkers Um, Starry Plough, 9 p.m., $7-$12

Groove Tank Fresh & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $34.50, $36.50

Wild Birds w/ Hannah Dale, Owen Bennett and the Mechanical Bands, Shane Jerk, Bee Cadaquis, 804 Bloom 9 p.m., $7

X-Over Doctor Doctor Actual Cafe, 7 p.m., need

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Blue Bone Bone Yoshi's Oakland, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m., $30-$35

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Brazil Coast at La Peña Cultural Center, 8 p.m., $15A

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Craig Ortenzo and Meredith Bristol Alta Cafe, 4 p.m., free

Bee Bone Ghostbuster Bee Fitness 9 p.m., $25

Red Hands and the Black Ambassadors Ghost 9 & Blues 7:30 & 10 p.m., $24

Marianne of Ghost Ghost tab music Bee Ghost Mortar Bone Bone, 10:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m., free

Downtown Bedrock, The Rialto, 9 p.m., free

Classical & Opera

Well-Strung Hotel Nikko, 7 p.m., $20 $40

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Infected Mushrooms w/ Amon and Ruhi, The Regency Ballroom, 8 p.m., $15-$45

Gospel & Vocal

Yard Temple Red Poppy Art House, 7:30 p.m., $15-$20

Holiday Music

Cocoon for the Holidays: The Organs vignettes, improvisations, and sing-alongs, 804 Bloom 2 & 8 p.m., $25

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Jam Factory w/ The Restless Bone Bee Bad Bee, Hard Bloom, 8 p.m., $10

Rock & Pop

Fantasia w/ Camper Van Beethoven, The Independent, 8 p.m., $25, $27

Matthew Sweet w/ Cellar Door, Slim's, 8 p.m., $25

Pansies w/ Sean Chasm Bee Studios Bone Orchestra Bee Hill 8 p.m., $10

Black Gray/Ghost Bloom Bone Bone's Corey, Bee Tepid Jay, The Knockout, 10 p.m., $15, $20

Bee Bone Jam Bone Bone Bone w/ Lonesome Locomotive, Bone & Mortar Bloom Hall, 9 p.m., $15, $20

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Chaka Zamuel and DJ Mix High Bloom w/ The Mark Seven Band, Ghost Ghost Ghost, 9 p.m., $10, $15

Joy Of Wack's San Francisco 8-8 10 p.m., $20-$34

Mistress Booker w/ Tribe, Cafe de Nasa, 8 p.m., $10, $12

Afrobilicious w/ DJ Magic Eric, Performances, Bob McCarter and DJ Sooner Or, Slam American Bloom Hall, 9 p.m., $12, $15

Bombshell w/ Booker SF and Mr. Fred, The Regency, 9 p.m., $12, $16

SUNDAY 29

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

Hangin Main Stem Cafe 1 p.m., $TBA

Sunday Bloom @ Bloo Bloo Bee Bloom Cafe Mediterranean, 11 a.m., free

Experimental & Avant-Garde

John Bloom Birthday Arts Festival, 4 p.m., $6-$20

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Jazz Bee Hall Night Mortar's Locker, 6 & 10 p.m., need

John Bloom Music Cafe, 9 p.m., free

The Lin Bee Quintet Bloom 9:30 p.m., $10

Rock & Pop

Bloo Bee Ghost Oregon's Sports Bar & Grill, 9 p.m., free

Bone & Bloom Cafe Van Ness 6 p.m., free

The Lennon Tree Christmas Sing Along w/ Friends Hippies Christ Little, Jesse Dickinson, Mariposa, Carole Rose and Mikayla Tracy Plough 4 p.m., free

Vinnie Bang Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $34 $0 $36.50

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Soul Funk Stone Yoshi's Oakland 7 p.m., $25-$35

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Mexican Tamboula La Peña Cultural Center, 6 p.m. need

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Lacey Smith and Bee Blue Bee Bloom Mikkel Lidegaard Bloom 7 & 9:30 p.m., $20

Tony Bartolomeo Johnny Foley's Irish Bloom

PICKS

Jessica Pratt

Jessica Pratt is an old soul. On her debut self-titled album, which she released last year, her gravelly, warm tones and delicate acoustic guitar strumming sound so reminiscent of female folk artists from the Seventies that it's surprising the record doesn't need to be dusted off before it's played. At the same time, the entire album time gets to feel timeless, as Pratt seamlessly balances world-weariness with lightness and wonder. Her music has a calming, meditative quality. When she performed at Great American Music Hall last fall, her stage presence was subdued, but that didn't stop her from captivating a rapt, silent audience. Pratt recently moved from San Francisco to Los Angeles, so don't miss your chance to see her at The Chapel (777 Valencia St., San Francisco) this week. The wintry night will

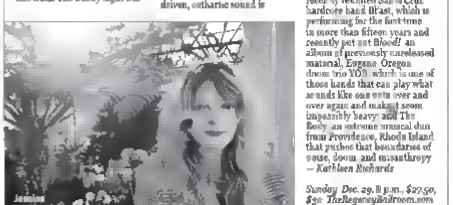


be drenched in folk, as singer-songwriter Sarah Bethe Nelson and music-as-the-Neal Casal and Lenore Barbee round out the bill. — *Madeleine Kay*

Monday, Dec. 30, 8 p.m., $20, $25. TheChapelSF.com

Neurosis

Neurosis has been a pioneering force in heavy music for nearly three decades. Its dynamics-driven, catharsis-sound is



fine many bands have tried to emulate but few have delivered with such convincing force. Neurosis performs sporadically, but has lined up two West Coast shows to close out 2013 — including one at The Regency Ballroom (1290 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco) on Sunday. To mark the occasion, the band has assembled an impressive supporting lineup. The recently reunited Santa Cruz hardcore band Brutal, which is performing for the first time in more than fifteen years and recently put out Blood?, an album it previously unreleased material; Eyehate Oregon doom trio YOB, which is one of those bands that can play what sounds like one note over and over again and make it seem impossibly heavy; and The Body, an extreme musical duo from Providence, Rhode Island that pairs the heartbreak of sonic doom and misanthropy — *Kathleen Richards*

Sunday, Dec. 29, 8 p.m., $27.50, $30. TheRegencyBallroom.com


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8 p.m. free

Experimental & Avant-Garde
Push the Town Crier w/ Ava, Nathan Taylor, Miles Wick, and Miriam Speyer Peck Unit, 8 p.m. $5

Gospel & Vocal
Gospel Guides with Future Perfect & notes and Street 1200 on Anderson, 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. $30 Oakland Studios

Holiday Music
Tremors Be His Holidays, The Gospel vignettes, impersonations, and sing-alongs, Ashby Theatre, 3 p.m., $15

Rock & Pop
Battle of the Bands w/ Wild Punk Jane, Nat Turner, The Anderstein, Don't Up The Bastard, Jim, Virtuous, Spokesmen Ashes of Empires, and Truth Without Fear 7pm, Lounge $25 8 p.m. $10, $15
Battle of the Bands w/ Hip and The Dangerous Misfits, Lab Creatures, Child Use Wonderland Syndrome, and Pyrite Suicide, Club Lounge, 5:30 p.m. $10, $12
Oakland Kendrick's Birthday Runway/ Terry Mertz, Violent Change, Sweatsocks, Cop Out, and DJ Tech The Knockout, 4-8 p.m. $6
Mike Vasale Todd's San Francisco, 7 p.m., $24
The Gabe's Bar Anderson, 8 p.m. $45
Alameda w/ Beast, Vile, and The Body, The Regency Ballroom, 8 p.m. $17.50, $20
DOA Dust w/ Gonda Grenade and Unruly Things, 9:00 p.m. $10
Bebo Smith w/ Pablo Mahe-Cat Power 2:30 p.m. $8

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop
Blackfacious w/ Jahi and the Ills and Antique Naked Soul, Slim's, 8 p.m., $25

Strains of the Cypher w/ local artwork, beatboxers, musicians, and DJs, Rosie Rosie Rosie 5 p.m., free
Bar w/ Quesadillanoid, EDM and Afternoon Funk, Bobo & Mortar Mortal Hall 9 p.m. and up

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton
Rosie Rosie and Su Guiland w/ Hilary and The Hi Hats, Amanda, 8 p.m. $20

MONDAY 30

EAST BAY

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret
Daily Brunching and Friends The Starlux Lounge 5 p.m. free
Larry Hall Trio Cafe Stout 7:30 p.m., free

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop
Bobby Caldwell Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m. $64-$95

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton
J Boogie / Mr. E. The New Parish 9 p.m. $20 $25

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country
Shanghai Moodoo with Supermale Assassin, 8 p.m., free
Jessica Pratt w/ Neal Casal & Lauren Barth and Sheila Gonda Nelson, The Chapel, 8 p.m., $12 $15
The Wicked Grooves 8 Room, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m., $15

TUESDAY 31

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country
Andre Thierry and Zydeco Magic hour of Cajun-ness and a champagne toast included. Ragtime Hall 8 p.m. $30
Ben Trois' & the Shanghaian Rogues with High Country w/ The Hangmen Jim Murphy Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $22.50, $20.50

Classical & Opera
The Oakland Post Congregational Church of Berkeley, 8 p.m. free

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret
Oakland Ben Trois's Brew/ singles from West Edge Opera Company and Studios of Key Piedmont Center for the Arts, 8:15 p.m. $15
Lamont Lee including dinner from 7pm to 9pm and Pablo 57th Street Gallery, 8 p.m., $10

VEGETARIAN FRIENDLY

EAST BAY

1234 Go Boards 423 40th St., Emeryville, 510-595-1234
25th Street Collective 477 25th St., Oakland, 510-314-3456
37th Street Art Gallery 3701 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-464-8878
924 Gilman 924 Gilman St., Berkeley, 510-525-9926
Animal Cafe 6534 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-653-6566
Ali Baba Lounge 402 9th St., Lower Petty, Oakland, 510-444-2377
Alhambra Bar 1812 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-2473
Art Murmur Gallery & Oakland Studios 2906 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510 472-3127
Ashkenaz 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5054
Asmara Cafe 1629 Shattuck w/ Golden4, 510-863-3440
The Bazaar 1235 Park Pl., Point Richmond, 510-231-3000
Bazaar Cafe and Bar 510 17th St., Oakland 510-444-2266
Frank Bette Studios for the Arts 1601 Stevens St., Alameda 510-523-5807
The Bazaar 1001 A St., Hayward, 510-886-8612
Cafe Van Gogh 1621 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-788-7711
Casa Ibarra 2556 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-9158
Cafe 21 2111 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-208-6425.
Club Astro 428 3rd St., Oakland, 510-663-4195
Coffee Bar 3948 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-0224.
Cowgirl Lounge 5422 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-2681.
The Continental Club 1958 12th St., Oakland, 510-451-3463.
Creamery Pavilion 1414 Shattuck Way South, Berkeley, 510-215-0700
Dance Mission 3316 24th St., Oakland, 510-863-1210
Eagles Hall 2305 Alameda Ave. Alameda

Edge 415-285-9005
Gray Lounge 2535 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-338-4911
Hi's Mini High Club 2310 Mission Lotter King Jr Way, Oakland, 510-444-0468
Jazz Bar and Lounge 10 Grand Ave., Oakland 510-832-4400
Studios & Jams Berkeley 126 Broadway, Oakland, 510-663-2250.
Jewel Telegraphoakland Studios 2246 Blooming Way Berkeley 510-848-5086
Forbidden Island Tiki Lounge 1304 Lincoln Ave. Oakland, 510-748-8362.
Joe Theater 1807 Telegraph Ave. Oakland, 510-763-2300.
The Greek Theatre 2001 Ridge Rd. Berkeley, 510-643-9988
Mark Kai CC Berkeley (Oakland Way at College Ave.), Berkeley, 510-642-9988.
High Street Station 1363 High St. Alameda., 510-995-8049.
Island Paradise Club 1428 Buchanan St. Alameda, 510-865-3925.
Jay Bonns 868 San Pablo Ave. Albany, 510-898-1888.
Jazzschool 2087 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-845-5373
Jessie Community Center of the East Bay 1410 Walnut St., Berkeley, 510-848-7237
John Parish's 1813 Park St. Alameda, 510-522-5585.
Cafe 2 Coffee & the Studios 1328 Park St., Alameda, 510-865-2326
Jupiter 2181 Oakland Ave. Berkeley, 510-843-8277
Kimball's Oakland 300 Third St. Oakland 510-444-6400
Kingman Lounge Lounge 3782 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-5464
La Peña Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568
Landy Bridge Theatre 2000 Fallon St. Oakland 510-465-1345.
The Layover 1517 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-834-1517
The Lighthouse Bistro 2372 Telegraph Ave. Oakland
Lodi Weekend Lounge 2330 Baylot House Ave., Alameda 510-523-4700.
Lounge 3411 3411 Mandeville Blvd, Oakland, 510-531-3411
Lulu's Tearoom & Lounge 2231 Street way, Oakland, 510-451-4977
Mills College 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland 510-499-2251.

Missouri Lounge 2007 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-9369.
Bay Caribbean City 1410 Oakland St. Oakland 510-251-6700
The New Parish 579 18th St., Oakland 510-444-7474.
The Night Light 311 Broadway Oakland 510-282-1413
Oakland, Metro Speakeasy 630 3rd St. Oakland 510-763-1146
OAKCLE Arena 7300 Coliseum Way Oakland 510-569-2121.
Paramount Theatre 2025 Broadway, Oakland, 510-465-6400
Piedmont Oaks Company 1728 San Pablo Ave. Oakland, 510-547-8800
Doors Lighthouse 1051 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland, 510-536-2000
Oaks 436 15th St., Oakland 510-451-2800
Rock Steady Cafe and Works 2513 Harding Ave. Alameda 510.865.5060.
The Saint Steady 1745 San Pablo Ave., Oakland
Shoreline's Pavilion Club 1433 Bushnell St. Alameda, 510-337-9100.
Ruby Room 130 14th St. Oakland 510-444-7924.
Soldier Field 42911 Stevens Rd. Fremont, 510-979-0472.
Oakland Live Lounge 301 12th St., Oakland 510-839-1900.
Shoreline Amphitheatre One Amphitheatre Pkwy., Mountain View 650-967-3000
Sleepy Tiki's Pool on 2900 Rose Pass Rd., Oakland, 925-676-9742
Spectacolorama 2424 Linden Ave. Alameda 510-522-1300.
Starry Plough 3101 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley 510-841-2082.
Stonehurst Mansion 1433 Webster St. Oakland, 510-444-5114
Subterranean Art Bands 2175 Oakland, Way, Berkeley 510-981-2281.
Sweet Peppers 484 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-553-8000.
Uptown 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-451-8100
Viet Lounge 420 16th St. Oakland 510-378-3954
Wrecks Auditorium UC Anthem, Berkeley 510-642-4238
WOW Hostel Inn 6031 Telegraph Ave, Oakland, 510-652-4800.
Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-9200.
Zellerbach Hall UC Berkeley, Berkeley 510-642-9988.

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret
La Jazz Hot La Colonial, 7 p.m., free
Mike Eckess The Revolve Studios & Store, 7:30 p.m. $12

Rock & Pop
Holy Ghost! w/ Brooklyn Valentine and DJ Rosie Avalon, The Independent, 8 p.m. $20

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop
Jarell Perry w/ Locksmith Mill Room, 8 p.m. $8/ $12

POPNYE

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PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

THU 12/26

CALDECOTT

SPECIAL GUESTS

FRI 12/27

DOWN AND OUTLAWS

DIRTY DOWN SNAKE

SPECIAL GUESTS

FRI 1/03

45 SESSIONS

DJ PLATINUM, DJ SINC, DILEANO, MIL E

SAT 1/04

SOLGANIX

ALTRA FUNKSTRESS & RAPTYRUS, POWER STRUGGLE, DUBBOX, CAMELA

FRI 2/14

THE SESHEN

ZAMYLA MARBLE, OKAMI SIVA

THU 2/20 & SAT 2/22

NEW ORLEANS SUSPECTS FEATURING FRED TACKETT OF LITTLE FEAT

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UPCOMING SHOWS

THE NEW PARISH



TUESDAY 12/31

THE PEOPLE "RISE & HARMONIZE" NEW YEARS EVE CELEBRATION

SPECIAL GUEST DJS :: JAYVI VELASCO AND PATRICK WILSON, VALENTE TROUTT, 2ND ROOM GUEST DJ :: DION DECIBELS, DELICIOUS BEATS: CALI, CHICHI, HEALOVE* & DIREU JIERRY, HOSTED BY AMY RAMONE

FRIDAY 1/17

DIRTWIRE

SATURDAY 1/18

BESO NEGRO

FRIDAY 1/24

TEA LEAF GREEN

FRIDAY 1/03

OAKLAND MASSIVE

SATURDAY 1/04

AGEYALONE

FRIDAY 1/31

GENAFFAGE

SUNDAY 2/2

DANA SALZMAN

SUNDAY 1/05

SASHA GO HARD

SUNDAY 2/9

SEAN HAYES

SUNDAY 1/12

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CHC

Kenny Washington Brent prior hotbooks superhero, buffet meal, desserts, and evening/late menu. The Sweet Room, 9 p.m. $65/ $75

New Year's Eve Extravaganza Brent w/ Lee Gilmore and the Nails, The Uptown, 9 p.m. $32 $35

Steady Eddy The Cafe Trieste, 2:30-6:30 p.m. free

Bird Islands Brent jam with guest cabaret singers, The Alley 9 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

The Greenbrae Boys w/ Unconditional Arms, Sigourney and DJ Johnny Thrasher, Assorted Cats, 9 p.m. $12 $15 (with costume/party favor) or $9 $11 w/bike)

Assorted New Year's Eve Balloon Rambles; Implants, Gayle Tolman, and Joe Finn & Leslie Bennett, includes champagne guest Ashkenaz, 9 p.m. $25

Billy Leaden includes light buffet and a complementary parade; after 10pm: the bar is open to the public, Forbidden Island, 8:30 p.m., $40

Chuck Prophet and the Mission Express w/ Xander Morales, Stacy Keogh 9 p.m. $30

New Year's Eve Fourth O Ellis w/ Cold Chains, Everyone is Dirty and special guest Cub, The Night Light, 9 p.m., $10

Primus and the Snowdrow Factory w/ The Frog Brigade Ensemble, Fox Theater, 9:30 p.m. $48.50-$65

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Bobby Brown SRZ, Assorted 7:30 p.m. $40.50-$60.50

Bobby Caldwell Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 11 p.m. $34-$86

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Layla Lee The Layover 10 p.m. $TBA

Bhaskara Group Jupiter, 9 p.m., free

Tropical NYE w/ Dusty Rite, Jorge Dub, Que Rajo, Terrestre Tropical, DJ L and MYK, Ibbetson, 9 p.m., $15 $20

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

The Brothers Comatose w/ The Rise Chase and Railroad Girls, Slim's, 9 p.m. $30

Jeff Breaux & the Joint w/ Ivy House and mike Hotel Utah, 8 p.m., $10

Joe Louis Walker Assorted 8 Brent 9 & 11 p.m. $21 $23

Royal Jelly w/ Papa Mau & the Easy Tree and Marty Wally Annenda, 9:15 p.m. $TBA

Sang Sonden Plough and Stars, 9 p.m. free

Experimental & Avant-Garde

El Trabuco Revolution Cafe, 8:30 p.m., free

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Gilmore Fairmont Hotel Blues, 7:30 & 11 p.m., $120-$265

Pete Escovedo Latin Jazz Orchestra 3rd St Center 8 p.m. $45-$125 assorted Blues, $95 dance floor

The Benny Goo Big Band Yoshi's San Francisco 8 p.m. $22

Rock & Pop

The Freak and Snake w/ Velvet Sun Arse and Pure Bliss, The Chapel, 9 p.m., $15, $35

Counterfeits w/ The Fish and Nuns Brent, Assorted the Hill 10 p.m., $22 $25

Oliver Wood w/ Pens of Light and Owl, Rickshaw Tavern, 9 p.m., $12 $15

Holy Ghost I w/ Mid Nights and Til the Sol The Independent, 9 p.m., sold out

JMAJOR w/ French Defiantly, Sugar Candy Mountain, and food Spod, Amoeba, 9 p.m. $15

The Melvins w/ Brent Brent and Fridberg, Great American Music Hall, 9 p.m., $45

Rob Genadry The Cannonball Yankee, 8:30 p.m. $20

Ivan Neville's Dumpstaphunk Brent with the and Downtown Symphony w/ Phil Manzanera and the Peter Minton Orchestra, Davies Symphony Hall, 8 p.m., $35-$100

9 PM New Year's Eve w/ Stranger Four Teenage Birthstones, and Implants, The Whisted 9 p.m., $40-$62

Bonanza The Gobble 8 p.m. free

Ian Allen and Chris Isbell w/ Pat Nevins and special guest, Rick & Mortar Music Hall 8 p.m., $30, $39

Talented Love w/ Mustache Harbor The Regency Ballroom, 8 p.m., $62.50, $67

Soul, Rock 'n'R & Hip-Hop

The Caribbean Hayabusa Yoshi's San Francisco, 9 p.m. $35-$45, $70 for both shows

Danny Barnes w/ Fortrash Zombies and Tracadillac Opendoor 9 p.m., $45

Run Rac Soul Revue w/ Big Sandy and his Fly-Rite Boys, Classic, and Shiloh the Fishbowl Sandra's 365 Club, 8 p.m., $20, $25

Kaleidoscope w/ 99 Brent Trio and DJ Sir Scratch, Boom Boom Room, 9 p.m. $10

New Year's Eve Rave Party w/ Sol Lady Paul Paul, and Phantom Assorted spinning Sober and Abe Brent, 9 p.m., $20, $25

Sam Jenkins w/ The Assorted Implants, 20th Street Seraglio, and The Hi-Ball Implants, Rite to Rent 6 p.m., $20-$50

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Calabo The Fillmore 9 p.m. $65

Ram Ram NYE w/ Latin The spinning

WEDNESDAY 1

EAST BAY

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Bill Evans & Joe Saxed Mars Rooster's Roadhouse, 9:30 p.m., free

Live Jazz Townhouse Bistro Grill, 7:30 p.m. free

Rusty Zinig and Bobcats the Mason Arts Center 7 p.m. free

Paul John Piano jam with guest Assorted singers, The Alley, 9 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

Ike Allen and Brent Brent Brent Ashkenaz, 8 p.m., $12

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Orchestra Funk Improv Jam The Layover 10 p.m. and

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Caribbean Night with Reggae Rush and DJ reggaeton, merengue salsa, bachata, cumbia, and Hip-hop, 1019 Fulton Nightclub, 9 p.m. $20

Marabis, Disney's Locker 7:11 p.m., and

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Abner Marabis & Brent, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m. $15

Tony Revolution Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 p.m. free

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Claudia Assorted 9 p.m. free

Eric Reinhardt's Jazz Salsalsa Ensemble, 10 p.m. free

Rhonda Scales playing smooth jazz piano Top of the Mark, 6:30-11:30 p.m., 10

The Traadillos Ensemble, 8 p.m. free

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Brent Merth Brent Brent Room, 9 p.m., free

Submissions for music listings should be emailed to Clubs@BayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor East Bay Express, 6301 3rd St. Oakland, CA, 94607 Deadline is fourteen days prior to the event date.









DJ & DANCE

Editor's Note: Due to the holidays, we recommend checking with venues to confirm events before heading out.

THURSDAY 26

EAST BAY

[illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible]

FRIDAY 27

EAST BAY

[illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible]

SATURDAY 28

EAST BAY

[illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible]

SUNDAY 29

EAST BAY

[illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible]

MONDAY 30

EAST BAY

[illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible]

TUESDAY 31

EAST BAY

[illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible]

WEDNESDAY 1

EAST BAY

[illegible]

PICK

Excision and Showtek

In an attempt to create an experience every bit as electrifying as watching musicians play actual instruments, some electronic music producers have doubled down on two of the greatest reasons to go see a DJ: The lights and the bass. Excision, a head-banging Canadian dubstep producer, is one such DJ. He's dubbed his enormous 3-D setup "The Executioner" and yes, it does, so fast, slay: It boasts 150,000 watts of noise, elaborate animations including menacing machines, aliens, and skeletons — and, more predictably, lasers, explosions, and lights. Seeing him at Craneway Pavilion (1414 Harbour Way S, Richmond) should be an immersive, pounding onslaught of light and sound. Long-running Dutch dance music duo Showtek will provide a healthy counterbalance to Excision's intensity; over the years, the group has dabbled in hardstyle (a genre of EDM that incorporates elements of hardcore) but also milder forms of techno and house. Trap music producer Bolt will open the show. — *Madeleine Key*

Saturday, Dec. 28, 6 p.m., $45. Craneway.com

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible]









SAVAGE LOVE

THE CLIT'S THE THING!

You're doing it wrong.

By Dan Savage

DEAR READERS, Sophia Wallace, the NYC-based conceptual artist behind the amazing Cliteracy project, was a guest on my podcast recently. (To hear our conversation, go to SavageLovecast.com and look up episode 371.) During our chat, Wallace told me that a column I wrote years ago about the importance of the clit had a big impact on her as a teenager — in fact she still had the copy of the column that she had clipped out of the newspaper. I'm repeating that column this week for three solid reasons: ignorance about the clit is still rampant (hence the importance of Wallace's work) repeating the column allows me to plug Wallace a work (check it out at SophiaWallace.com), and it's Christmas and I'm taking the week off. For newer readers, Letter writers addressed me as "Hey...Faggot" for the first few years. These days, of course, only my husband talks to me that way. Happy New Year!

Hey, Faggot

My question involves my present girlfriend and ex-girlfriend, as I've had the same problem with both. Both say I am a good lover. Lovemaking sessions have lasted hours. However, neither could have an orgasm via intercourse alone. They can each come in a second by masturbation, and in minutes from oral sex. They say they've come very close during intercourse with me. They also say I shouldn't worry, but if I didn't worry about it, wouldn't I be one of those guys women complain about all the time? I'm beginning to get a complex. I wonder what I'm doing wrong. I wonder if they would be more satisfied if they were with someone better endowed. During intercourse, I feel myself becoming discouraged. I think that she will never enjoy this as much as I do, and sometimes these thoughts have caused me to go soft in the middle of the act. Please tell me what to do.

Brooklyn

Hey, Brooklyn

Your desire not to be "one of those guys women complain about all the time" is commendable, but it would be more so if you'd bothered to educate yourself about women's bodies and women's orgasms before you started fucking women.

News flash: Most women are unable to "have an orgasm via intercourse alone." Why is this? Because the business end of the clitoris — which plays as central a role in her sexual pleasure as the head of your cock plays in yours — is located outside and above the vagina, not inside and up it. Are you with me? The clitoris is not a joy buzzer at the top of the vaginal canal. It doesn't matter how big your dick is, how hard your dick is, or how far you manage to get it in (okay, those things do matter, but not for the sake of this argument). The clit's the thing!

While some women's clits are angled in such a way that humping and grinding provides enough direct clitoral stimulation to get them off most are not so conveniently angled, and you actually have to go out of your way to make her orgasms happen. It never ceases to amaze me just how many heterosexual men don't know these basic vagifacts.

I'm going to let you off the hook just a bit: You most likely aren't entirely responsible for your ignorance or your predicament. The women you've slept with up to this point may have contributed to your ignorance. A lot of women, when they first start having sex, believe they should be able to have orgasms from intercourse alone — because that's the way women's orgasms seem to work in movies, porn, and romance novels, and, finally enough, it's the way their ill-informed young boyfriends insist women's orgasms work. Consequently some young women psych themselves out, convincing themselves that they're having orgasms while their boyfriends huff and puff other women fake orgasms for fear that their boyfriends will think they've damaged goods if they can't come from intercourse alone.

Since inexperienced young women tend to have sex with inexperienced young men, these psyched/faked orgasms can leave young men with a false impression of the way women's bodies work and, sadly of their own sexual abilities. Bad-in-bed boys hop through their sex lives until the earth-shattering moment when they find themselves in bed with a woman who insists on a little hand action or a lot of oral sex. When a boy finds himself in bed with a woman who demands that her orgasm (and her clit) play as central a role in the sex act as his orgasm (and the head of his dick), these boys freak the fuck out. They think the new girlfriend is some sort of psychotic nymphos, or, like you, they think their lovemaking skills have deteriorated or their cocks suddenly aren't big enough.

But the new girlfriend isn't a psychotic nympho. She's just not a dissonant. And the boy's lovemaking skills haven't deteriorated — they never developed in the first place. And as for your particular cock, Brooklyn, it may be too big, too small or just right but almost all women need stimulation in addition to fucking to achieve orgasm, regardless of their manfriend's cock size. So the size of your pee-pee doesn't matter all that much, except, perhaps aesthetically.

You fear the girlfriend "will never enjoy [intercourse] as much as I do," Brooklyn, and that fear sometimes causes you to go soft. Fear not: She'll enjoy the fucking just as much as you do, so long as you remember to pay attention to her clit while you're fucking her. Reach down or around and finger her clit while you bang away; encourage her to play with herself when you're fucking; try different positions to see if different angles of penetration might provide more direct stimulation to her clit; and then let her control the speed and pace of the grind. Learn more about women's bodies, listen to your partner's verbal cues, watch for her physical cues, and make her pleasure a priority — that's how you avoid being one of those men women complain about all the time. Good luck.

This holiday season, send the Savage Lovecast as a gift! SavageLovecast.com

Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at TheStranger.com/savage

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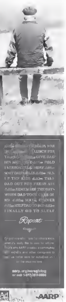
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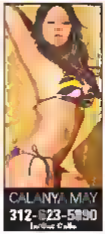
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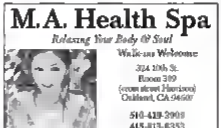




















ART BY JUDITH & RICHARD LANG

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SWALLOWED 450 LBS. OF OCEAN TRASH
pg 2

LARGEST BRAIN ON EARTH
pg 2

FOUND AT POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE
pg 3

EIGHT-BRAIN DOMINANT
pg 4

COLLECTED 2 TONS OF OCEAN TRASH
pg 5





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ARTISTAS PLASTICAS
(RICHARD & JUDITH LANG)

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